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Israelis arrest 40 in South Lebanon

TYRE (AFP) - The Israeli army has arrested about 40 people in a sweep in South Lebanon a day after a suicide carbombing wounded 11 soldiers, Lebanese security services said Wednesday. The wave of arrests began late Tuesday in Bint Jbeil only hours after the attack on an Israeli military convoy in the town inside Israel's self-declared "security zone." Bint Jbeil and the neighbouring village of 'Ainata were scaled while Israeli soldiers searched several houses looking for a young woman who supposedly accompanied the suicide bomber, security services added. she allegedly jumped from the car packed with explosives at the last minute just as the driver rammed into the convoy as it entered a military building in the town. Hizbollah said the car was packed with 460 kilogrammes (see page 12). Those arrested were taken to the Israeli military administration buildings in Bint Jbeil for



Couple in court in Israeli embassy bombing

LONDON (AFP) - A woman and man charged in connection with the bombings of the Israeli embassy and a Jewish centre in London last year appeared in court and were remanded in custody. court officials said. Nadia Zekra, 48, and Jawed Mahmoud Botmeh, 27, both with London addresses, are accused of conspiring to cause explosions. Wednesday's committal hearing found there was sufficient evidence against them to warrant a trial, and they will return to court in four to six weeks to answer the charges, the officials said. If they plead not guilty, a trial date will be set at that time. The two are charged in connection with bombs that heavily damaged the Israeli embassy last July 26, and a Jewish chanty centre building the following day. A second woman, identified as Samar Alami, 29, of London, was in custody awaiting a court appearance May 10 on a related charge, officials.

Volume 19 Number 5903

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 27-28, 1995, THU ALQ'EDAH 27-28, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

dents' readiness to contribute

to the country's develop-

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Professor Na'el Awamleh

of the faculty of economics

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said: "National unity is a

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Another address was deli-

Professor Abdullah Al

knowledge of their youth.

He underlined the import-

Israel gives first sign of W. Bank redeployment 🙃

Negotiators say July 1 deadline will be met

army is to close three training camps oo the West Bank, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced Wednesday, in the first sign of an impending Israeli redeployment for Palestinian self-rule.

In Cairo, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli negotiators said they expected to reach an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule into the rest of the West Bank by a July 1 deadline.
The bopeful statements

follow months of sputtering talks between the PLO and Israel on an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and the holding of Palestinian elections.

Military sources said equipment would be moved gradually from bases across the West Bank where it was no longer needed.

The bases will not be dismantled but will bouse other security units." Mr. Rabin announced on Israel radio. He bad discussed in

cabinet the financing of the transfer back to Israel of the maio West Bank training facilities near Hebron, Nabhis and Ramallah, the radio

The facilities concerned

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A European Uoioo delegation left Am-man for Israel and Gaza

Wednesday after officially in-

viting Jordan to the

Mediterianean conference

that the EU will organise in

Barcelona in November and

consulting with the Jordanian

officials on the objectives of

Head of the delegation Bernard Prague of France

described as positive the out-

come of his talks here adding

that further talks on the con-

ference and its objectives will

be held with Jordanian offi-

the delegation, which in-

cluded German and Spanish

as well as EU delegates, will

report to the EU summit in

Cannes on the outcome of

The European officials said

cials later this year.

EU team leaves after

Syrian and Lebanese role

seen unlikely in Barcelona

By Ayman Al Safadi the talks it held with

conference.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM the settlement of Beil Al (Ageories) — The Israeli outside Ramallah and Adus outside Ramallah and Aduraim south of Hebron, it said The radio had first reported that the bases would

be evacuated, but Mr. Rabin spoke only of an end to training there PLO Chairman Yasser

Arafat urged Israel 10 go much further. This is a step that must be followed by other steps and by the withdrawal from all the areas in line with the

Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said. But the move was still seen as a first sign that the longdelayed redeployment was to begin as under the autonomy

(autonomy) agreement."

"I think it's very important because we have indicated we are serious about our intentions," government spokes-man Uri Dromi said. "We are not just fooling around and trying to buy time."

"This is a serious signal, not that we are moving tomorrow morning but that we are taking things seriously as we did in Gaza.

In Gaza, as in the West Bank enclave of Jericho, the army gradually removed equipment and troops in the months before self-rule began in May, 1994.

are "base number three" at Nablus, "number four" by Likud Party leader Benjamin

Mediterranean countries

which will be invited to the

Mr. Prague told the Jordan

Times that Jordanian officials

stressed the need for the peo-

ple to feel the economic di-

vidend of peace and that the

EU be more explicit in point-

ing Out the difference be-

tween the Barcelona confer-

ence and the Middle East and

North Africa economic sum-

The Barcelona summin

aims al discussing a institu-

tionalised mechanism for

consolidating relations be-tween the EU member states

and countries of the

Mediterranean basin and will

issue a final declaration that

is divided into political, humanitarian and economic

(Continued on page 7)

Amman in September.

inviting Jordan to Spain Israelis

Netanyahu accused the government of already starting a

The government is playing with public opinion and deceiving us." he said. "The government told us the same lies when in fact the army was

pulling out of Gaza.

The 1993 declaration of principles for autonomy calls for an Israeli military redeployment outside built-up Palestinian areas on the West Bank to allow Palestinian elections to go ahead Under the declaration, re-

deployment was to have taken place on the West Bank before last July, but Israel bas repeatedly stalled demanding that the Palestinian National Authority make a greater effort to halt militant attacks.

"We are telling the Palestinians, give us the time and you will see," Mr. Dromi said. "It takes a lot of menculous planning.

"But if you deliver your part of the deal in terms of security then we will deliver and it can be quicker than people think."

close training facilities first. Training bases take more time 10 move, army units can operate in any kind of situa-

tortured

to death

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) - The Palesti-

suspect

He said it was normal to AMMAN (Petra) - Resi-(Cootinued on page 2) Describing the badia area dents of the northern badia as a potential source of natu-PNA says regions and those close to ral wealth, the Crown Prince sald that efforts should be made for its development.

regions.

Meeting with the Crown
Prince, who was on a daylong tour of the northern badia, Parliament members

of the badia districts and notuested the Crown Prince to help protect their livestock wealth, drill artesian wells for drinking water and protect their pastures.

nian National Authority (PNA) charged on Wednesday that Israeli agents tortured to death a suspect

under interrogation. Abdul Samed Harizat, a suspected Hamas member, died Tuesday from head injuries after three days of questioning by agents of the Sbin Beth, Israel's internal

security service. "We hold the Israeli authorities responsible for the martyrdom of Abdul Samed Harizat," the Palestinian Information Ministry said in a statement.

"We ask them to set up a legal framework 10 monitor torturing of detainees under

(Continued on page 7)

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor the tomb of Queen Zein, the Queen Mother

on Wednesday recite verses of the Koran at (Petra photo)

Queen Mother remembered

Mother, Their Majesties King Hussein and Also Wednesday, representatives of the

Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince and the Jubilee School visited Queen Zein's Hassan, Princess Sarvath and Princess Basma tomb,

AMMAN (Petra) — On the first anniversary and other members of the Royal Family, who of the death of Queen Zein, the Queen laid wreaths on the tomb.

Queeo Noor on Wednesday visited the Queen Queen Aba Fund for Social Development Mother's tomb and recited verses of the Holy (QAF), the National Population Commission, the National Commission on Women's Affairs The tomb was also visited by Their Royal and children from Um Al Hussein Orphanage

Crown Prince says northern badia should get better services

The badia areas comple-

ment the mountainous and

Rweished on Wednesday appealed to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for better services in their

Some of the notables complained that television broadcast does not reach their re-

Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour and local officials and the commander of the border police units.

The Crown Prince said everything possible should be done to protect the vital indiscrimination. It is the duty of every citizen to cooperate with the concerned authorities to protect the nation's gains and achievements, he

other agricultural regions and He said Jordan radio and its pastures must be protected television broadcasts should by all means because they reach the badia region as its contribute to the livestock citizens benefit a great deal wealth of Jordan, said the from their programmes. Crown Prince, who was District Governor Oaftan accompanied on the tour by

Majali briefed the Crown Prince on the situation and problems in the badia. The Crown Prince passed instructions to concerned departments to examine these issues and find appropriate solu-uons for them.

University students stage 'national unity rally'

AMMAN (J.T.) — University of Jordan officials as well as students of Salt and Circassian origin on Wednesday participated in a "nanonal unity rally" and delivered addresses in which they called for safeguarding national

unity and unifying ranks. The rally, held one day after the conclusion of investigations by the university administration into April 5 clashes on campus in which dozens of students were injured, included addresses by University of Jordan Presideni Fawzi Gharaibeh, several professors and two students representing the two feuding parties.
Dr. Gharaibeh underlined

the need 10 protect national unity and urged the students 10 be an example in their unity and integration. The rally, he said, embo-

dies an expression of the siu-

vered by Professor Moham-

gins sand backgrounds.

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan, PNA sign agreement on culture

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Wednesday signed an executive programme for cooperation in cultural fields.

The programme, signed by Culture Minister Samir Habashneh and Palesunian Culture Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, comes in implementation of a cultural cooperation and coordination agreement signed between the two sides on Jan. 26,

The programme provides for exchanging literary and intellectual works and historical documents and entails joint action in cultural fields. It also calls for exchaoging lecturers, expertise and information as well as visits by those working in cultural organisations and institu-

nons. It also calls for echancing cooperation between Jordanian and Palestinian writers and artists and exchanging book exhibitions.

In addition is calls on the two sides to exchange visits by art and theatre groups and to cooperate in developing cultural laws and regulations and protecting copyrights and intellectual properties.

Mr. Habashneh and Mr.

Abed Rabbo also signed plans of action 10 execute the programme in 1995 which entails bolding four seminars on the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, cultural and socio-economic relations and active laws in the two countries among many other activities to be hosted by Palestinian and Jordanian

The first of these seminars will be held in the Palestinian city of Ramallah in July with the participation of the Jordanian and Palestinian ministers of culture.

Jordanian and Palestinian poets and writers will participate in cultural events to be held in Jenin, Tulkarem, Hebron and Gaza in the second half of June.

The Jordanian Ministry of Culture will also participate

(Continued on page 7)

Symposium advances

idea of commitment — TDA

aimed at shortlisting some of the ventures that could be implemented in a relatively. shorter span when compared with some of the megaprojects that involve billions of dollars and eight to 10 years to complete.

The Amman symposium brought together key planning officials and strategists from the governments of Jordan, Israel and the United States and senior business executives from the three coun-

panies, most of them mulninationals with annual turnovers of billions of dollars.

If there were no announcements of concrete projects at the end of the symposium, it was simply because it was not the purpose of the gathering. said J. Grandmaison, director of the Trade and Development Agency (TDA), a U.S. government organisation which sponsored the

"A byproduct of this conference, however, is a heavy-dose reality," said Mr. Grandmaison, addressing a press conference. "The most instructive session (other sessions baving dealt with high-ly technical details of projects) was the final session, having to do with financing.

"The message that was clear from the private sector was that if they are expected to be involved in the financing, the economic viability of the projects was the key." That is where organisations

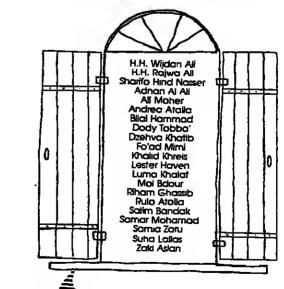
like TDA come in, said Mr. Grandmaison. He noted that his organisation was involved in helping commercial organisations carry oot studies with a clear eye on meeting the concerns and interests of the regional parties. However, he said, it was

solely up to the governments of Jordan and Israel to identify priority projects and up to the private sector to decide wbether to "jump in and par-"What we brought with us

was 50 companies which, we believe, are progressive (and) (Continued on page 7)

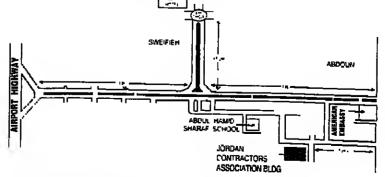
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Second Oklahoma bomb suspect may be dead

OKLAHOMA CITY (Agencies) - Federal agents are investigatiog whether the second suspect in the deadly Oklahoma City blast was killed wbcn the two-tonne bomb weni off, an official the bomb and the suspects.

The source said publicity source said on Wednesday. about a second suspect has

"It's an active theory." law enforcement source told Reuters. "That is one reason why they are so closely examining pictures from the area — he may have got caoght by the explosion."

official death count rose early Wednesday to 94, including 14 children. An estimated 135 people are still missing.

The source said in born-

The source said it is routine in bombings to see whether the bomber was killed in a blast, but said in this case.

The source said it is routine in bombings to see whether the bomber was killed in a blast, but said in this case.

Oklahomore.

blast, but said in this case, unidentifiable body partial and heavy damage all around the area bas made it more difficult to be certain."

Only one person—
Timothy McVeigh— has been directly charged in the blast, which exploded last Wednesday, almost demolishing a nine-floor federal building.

A surveillance camera's tape — damaged by last Wednesday's blast — is being scrulinised because it may show the truck that carried

been so intense it would be very difficult for the man to move around in public... Federal authorities issued a new sketch of the darkhaired, tattooed man on

Tuesday, this nme showing him in a baseball cap. "Either he doesn't know anybody or he's dead, is what

found traces of ammonium nitrate, an ingredient of fertiliser, on McVeigh's clothing and in his car. Experts believe the bomb was made primarily of fertiliser and fuel

McVeigh was listed on Tuesday as a co-conspirator in federal charges filed in Michigan against farming brothers James and Terry

The charges were not link-ed to the Oklahoma bomb. James Nichols, 41, and Terry Nichols, 40, are reported to have ties to the Michigan Militia, a paramilitary group which is part of a pro-gun. anli-government movement operating in several states.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) affidavit re-leased with the charges alleged that McVeigh and the Nicbols brothers experimented with making bombs. It said James Nichols held extreme, right-wing views and despised the U.S.

government. CNN reported that McVeigh, a former soldier, was refusing to speak to authorities, claiming he was a political prisoner. It said McVeigh would give only his name. rank and army serial number — the information a prisoner of war gives his cap-

(Continued on page 7)

development efforts

U.S. businessmen got clear

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - American. Israeli and Jordanian government officials and business executives on Wednesday ended a key symposium, which, organisers said, significantly advanced the objective of crystallising the approach to developing the Jordan Rift Valley that the Kingdom

shares with Israel. As soon as the three-day symposium was over. Jordanian, Israeli and American officials started discussions on what Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Nabil Ammari described as 'fast-

track" projects in the valley. The discussions were

Dr. Ammari also announced that allocations were already made for \$5 million to conduct the second phase of feasibility studies of Jordan Rift Valley development projects. The first phase was conducted by the World Bank,

But American participation in the event was the heaviest, with about 50 comNAIROBI (AFP) — Two southern Sudanese rebel factions have concluded an agreement that would totally stop hostilities between them and appealed to other rebel groups in the war-torn south to join in the accord, it was anoounced Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference here, the rebel South Sndan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) leader Rick Machar said its military delegation to political reconciliation and peace talks inside Sudan had agreed with John Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement/ Army (SPLM/A) to a total cessation of hostilities and a permanent ceasefire hetween the factions.

The agreement at the talks. which opened in Eastern Equatoria last Sunday and ended with a signed accord on Wednesday afternoon, also catered for free movement of troops and civil population in the areas controlled by the two movements, Mr. Machar

He also said the agreement allowed unrestricted movement of humanitarian and relief agencies and personnel in the areas controlled by the liberation movements, and appealed to other southern Sudanese armed groups to ioin in the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities.

The SSIM/A military delegation was led by Commander William Nyuon Bany, schief of staff and member of the faction's National Liberation Council, who rejoined the faction on March 31 after being expelled on Jan. 25 on allegations of collaborating with the government in Khartoum, while Colonel Garang and his-deputy Silva Akiir led

the rival delegation. The two delegations have yet to sit down and thrash out a final agreement on other outstanding issues to enable the two rebel factions to reunite to their struggle to oust the "fundamentalist" regime in Khartoum, Mr.

Machar said. SSIM/A declared its first ceasefire with the SPLA on March 10, hut the ceasefire was never reciprocated hy the Garang side.

The two movements also declared a ceasefire at the end of March in reciprocation of one declared hy Sudanese bead of state Omar Hassan

But both rebel sides have accused Khartoum of violating its own ceasefire, while Khartoum also charged that the rebels had failed to respect the ceasefire, brokered hy former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to enable his Glohal 2000 foundation to eradicate guinea-worm and sleeping siekness diseases common in the southern re-

Meanwhile, the SSIM/A leader on Wednesday saeked the organisation's secretarygeneral and secretary for political affairs, Richard Mulla, with effect from April 25, accusing him among others of collaborating with Khar-

Mr. Machar said Mr. Mulla had failed to perform his duties, indulged in activities against the SSIM/A constitution, spread false and adverse propoganda against the faction and secretly collaborated with Khartoum and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels fighting against President Yoweri Museveni's reg-

ime in northern Uganda. But an informed source in the movement told AFP oo Wednesday that Mr. Mulla was sacked because he was trying to set up a new rebel faction in his home region of Eastern Equatoria.

UAE cracks down on trave agencies cheating pilgrims

DUBAI (AFP) — Muslim pilgrims, who in centuries past feared being amhushed by handits as their camel caravans trudged through the desert to Mecca, these days have to be wary of disreputable travel agencies.

In the past few years there have been reports of tour operators lodging pilgrims in stead of the hotels advertised and of putting them in huses that hreak down in the intense desert heat.

The United Arah Emirates (UAE) has taken steps to protect those making this year's pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina

which culminates on May 10. The UAE's 60 mugawilunes, the agencies which organise pilgrimage or Haj tours. have been ordered to set aside funds which could be used to settle any complaints filed by pilgrims.

The government has also launched a press campaign against dishonest tour oper-

Eleven agencies had their licences withdrawn after failing to "fulfill their contracts with the pilgrims" during the last Haj, an official with the UAE's religious affairs ministry told AFP.

For 6,500 dirhams (nearly \$1,767), the travel agency promises to provide the pilgrim with the plane trip from the UAE to Saudi Arabia, food and board, as well as transportation between the holy sites in Mecca and Medi-

For those travelling hy

road the trip costs 3,500 dirhams (\$950), an official said.

An expatriate in the Gulf Arah state of Bahrain who made the pilgrimage last year said that buses and their air conditioners often hroke down and left passengers to endure the suffocating desert heat.

soon as he arrives in Saudi Arahia where he has to pay a tax of 440 riyals (more than \$110) that the mougawil is supposed to have taken care

he added. Then "the hotel promised in the brochures turns ont to

be an apartment where four to six people are crowded into a room," he said. A travel agent contacted

from Dubai said some end up sleeping in the open air or in mosques and have to wait days before they can reach their tour representative to complain.

Through cheating, "a tour operator can make a net profit of \$40,000 from each group of 100 pilgrims." according to a pilgrim who is an economist.

Around two million Muslims are expected to make the pilgrimage this year, with more than 397,000 of them having arrived in the kingdom by Friday, Saudi officials announced Sunday.

Every Muslim who is fit enough and can afford the trip is required by the Koran to make the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina at least once in a lifetime.

Israel gives first sign of W. Bank pullback | Satellite

(Continued from page 1)

"The Rabin government is selling off the safety of set-tlers," charged Likud deputy Ron Nahman, who is also the mayor of the West Bank settlement Ariel.

Yossi Kaufman, secretary general of Beit Al, told AFP: Settlers will take over any hase which is ahandoned hy the army and live there."

Settlers at Beit Al said they had not noted any particular movement at the training

"Io Cairo, Israeli chief negotiator Yoel Singer said after the two days of talks oo elections that "we agreed that we should conclude our discussions on the elections and complete the interim agreement within the July 1st target date."

PLO negotiator Saeh Erekat said the two sides had made progress. Asked about that ... it is a must that we should reach the agreement by the deadline."

Talks on the redeployment have been going on in secret locations, apparently to ease pressure on the election talks in Cairo. Dr. Erekat declined to say what progress those talks had made.

The withdrawal is considered a condition for holding the elections, which will choose an autonomy council to administer the Palestinian self-rule areas in the West Bank and Gaza. One of the sticking points

Arah East Jerusalem will participate. Other election issues, however, have heen re-solved, Dr. Erekat said, with-

is under what conditions

160,000 Palestinians from

meeting the target date, he out elaborating. Mr. Sioger said, "I think we could do said the two sides even hoped said the two sides even hoped to wrap up the talks a few weeks before the deadline to give Palestinians time to prepare for the elections.

Mr. Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres agreed in March that the two sides should reach an agreement on the redeployment and elections by July 1. Setting the deadline was seen as a way to speed up the

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres are to meet May 7 in Cairo to decide on the next step in the negotiations, Dr. Erekat

Meanwhile, the PNA in Gaza will start registering some 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza on Friday to vote at some 5,000 polling stations, he

CIA investigating 'Gulf syndrome'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is reviewing intelligence data that could give new clnes on whether U.S. troops were exposed to chemical or biological agents during the 1991 Gulf war, the

agency said Tuesday. The review, which has not been publicly announced, so far has found nothing to support suspicions of veterans groups and members of Congress that Iraqi chemical or hiological weapons were used, CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield said.

Veterans groups and members of Congress have been deeply skeptical of U.S. Defence Department claims that evidence does not exist of chemical or hiological weapons use. They say such contaminants may explain "Gulf syndrome," the name given to undiagnosed symptoms that have afflicted many Americao soldiers and fought in the Gulf war. The CIA study was started

in mid-March by the acting CIA director, Admiral Wilham Studeman. Mr. Mansfield stressed that the review of "intelligence data that is relevant to exposure to chemical or biological agents' was not yet complete. "We plan to keep our in-

quiry open and defer final conclusions" until many more intelligence reports are reviewed and evaluated, the spokesman said. But he said: "Nothing has

yet surfaced that leads CIA to disagree with the department of defence conclusion that chemical weapons were not used during the Gulf John Destch, President Bill

Clinton's nominee to be the next CIA director, was in charge of the Defence Department's inquiry into the Gulf syndrome until he was elevated to deputy defence secretary last year. Last June, in an internal memorandam, Mr. Dentch ordered that no

information related to health problems of Gulf veterans remain classified without his

But veterans groups and some members of Congress have questioned whether all relevant information has been declassified.

Iraq's possible use of chemical and biological agents during the war has been the subject of several congressional hearings. Service members have testified that chemical detectors went off numerous times during air raids and that many suffered respiratory and skin problems despite assurances by commanding officers that these were false alarms.

President Clinton promised last month to "leave no stone unturned" in the search for answers about Gulf warrelated illnesses. He announced plans for an independent advisory committee to oversee the many government studies.

Trial of alleged Boudiaf assassin adjourned

ALGIERS (AFP) - The trial of the alleged assassin of Algeria's former president Mohammad Bondiaf was Tuesday adjourned until May 15 at the request of defence lawvers.

The four lawyers said they had not had time to study the dossier of their client, second lleoteoaot Boumaarafi.

They also questioned the reliability of evideoce relating to a commission set up to investigate the assassination. Boumaarafi, wounded dur-

ing a mutiny at Algiers' Serkadji prison on Fehurary 22 that killed around 100 inmates, still had a bullet in his knee, they said. The commission concluded

Boumaarafi was guilty of the

assassinatioo, hut it had not heen able to determine whether he had been acting under orders. Boumaarafi told investiga-

tors he was an Islamic sym-

pathiser, and that be had

acted only out of religious conviction. As he stood in the dock luesday, surrounded police, Boumaarafi avoided looking at the courtroom

packed with witnesses and journalists. Television cameras had permission to film, and the alleged murder weapon, a sub-machinegun, and the armchair where the president was sitting at the time of

his assassination, were exhibited. In an interview published Tuesday in the newspaper Liherte, the president's widow Fatiha Boudiaf stated she would not attend the trial, saying that she felt, "a great feeling of doubt" about

Fatiha Boudiaf, who is proceeding with her own civil suit relating to the assassination, denounced the lack of cooperation between the prosecution and herself, saying prosecutors had failed to pass on their dossier.

And she claimed the "isolated act" of Boumaarafi was "not at all a convincing

thesis.' "There are too many shadowy areas," she said, adding they would prevent the whole truth from being revealed.

Gaza court jails secular Palestinian — PFLP

Palestinian military court has jailed for the first time a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction opposed to the autonomy accord said Wednesday.

The PFLP said Awni Mohammad Kafarneh was beaten, presented to the state security court on Monday, within 24 hours of his arrest, and sentenced to one year in

prison.
"The PFLP is concerned by the state security court's night sessions, its rapid and harsh sentencing with no time

Jordan Valley 15 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27 Aqaba 31, Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent. Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL

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Dr. Ghassan Al Facih 906130

Dr. Jamil Tarif Dr. Abbas Al Hakim

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Khafil Al Jbali ...

for proper defense," it said in a statement.

Attorney General Khaled Al Qidra refused to comment Mr. Kafarneh's jailing would mark the first time the security court had sentenced a Palestinian without links to an Islamic fundamentalist organisation.

Established by PLO chief Yasser Arafat to try cases endangering state security, the court has convicted 11 members of the Islamie Resistance Movement, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad

following the killing of seven

to up to 25 years in jail. The trials began after a Palestinian police crackdown Israelis and an American in suicide bombing in Gaza on April 9.

Mohammad Dahman, a spokesman for the PFLP, said Mr. Kafarneh was detained after police forced confessions out of four boys, aged 14 to 15, who had apparently been caught with crude, home-made explo-Sives.

"They were forced to admit that Kafarneh, a neighbour, was their leader," Mr. Dahman said. "There are many conflicting stories abont how and why be was arrested, hut the charges were hailt on nothing se-

tracks migrating falcons

ABU DHABI (Agencies) -Scores of huoting falcons with implanted microchips are being tracked hy satellite from Abu Dhabi to gather scientific data on their migration patterns.

Officials at the government-backed national aviation research centre said that 107 hirds of prey owned hy the president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, were released two weeks ago in Pakistan's Baluchistan province.

The location was chosen to provide the birds with easier access to their regular migration routes.

Helped hy experts from the Middle East falcon research group and backed hy the Ahu Dhabi government, the centre spent several months preparing the falcons for their

journey.
"Eighty of the hirds are Saker falcons, with the rest Peregrine falcons plus one Lanner falcon. Each of them was placed in tightlycontrolled isolation at the Abu Dhabi falcon hospital for one month to ensure they were infection-free and in excellent shape," said centre executive Peter Hellyer.

He said that each bird had tiny transponder weighing 0.1 grammes, each with an identification oumber, implanted under their skins to provide data on their move-

ments after release. The heavier Saker falcons were fitted with larger tags so they could be tracked hy satellites until the transponders' minute batteries run down after several months.

The signals are picked up by three satellites circling the earth in north-south orbit. They store the data uotil they pass over France, where it is downloaded to a receiving station linked to Ahu Dhahi.

The centre scientists have used a similar method to track the Honhara hustard from its point of capture in the UAE more than 1,200 kilometres to a prohable hreeding spot in northeastern Iran, the farthest distance such a bird has ever been

tracked. Gulf Arah falconers regularly visit Pakistan during the huntiog season with the Houhara hustard as their main prey.

The faicons were released in batches over four days in various locations in Baluchistan. Initial tracking of the four Sakers show them moving northward towards Afghanitan and their breeding grounds in Central Asia.

The centre's vice chairman, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Zayed, said: "With this programme, we hope to be able to learn much about these faicons... and to make a direct contribution to the strengthening of the wild population of these beautiful

"It is the first planned release programme of its kind ever undertaken in history. said a statement by the Abu Dhabi-based centre, which is financed by the government.

The programme is "designed to allow the released birds to establish themselves successfully in the wild where they will strengthen the existing wild populations," it

said. The birds will be monitored by France, the statement said. It said a few falcons had

been released in past years with microchips hut this was first organised operation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen to call on Interpol in hunt for separatists

SANAA (AFP) — Yemeni authorities are to enlist the help of Interpol in arresting four former southern leaders who fled abroad after failing to set up a hreakaway state in last year's civil war, police said Tuesday. "We have received the dossier of charges from the prosecutor general and we are going to ask for Interpol's belp so that they are arrested and tried for crimes and harming Yemen's unity,"
the head of the criminal police Colonel Mohammad Rajah Najad told AFP. Among the four is Ali Salem Al Beidh. former head of the Yemeni Socialist Party who appointed himself president of the hreakaway southern republic set up in May 1994. The three others are Abdul Rahman Al Jiffri, the republic's vice-president, Haidar Al Attas. self-declared prime minister, and Salah Mnasser Al Siyali, the former governor of the southern stronghold of Aden.

Three ont of the four fled to Oman and Saudi Arabia when northern troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh captured Aden in July ending the war. The fate of Siyali remains nuclear. Although his death was announced when Aden fell, according to press reports he is alive and living in Somalia. Police would also ask for the help of Arah police and interior ministries, Mr. Najad said. Mr. Saleh pardoned all southerners who fled ahroad at the end of the war, apart from 16 still on the run who are wanted on charges of treason.

Qatar agrees deal to ship gas via Suez Canal

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt and Qatar have signed an agreement to transport Qatari natural gas to Europe through the Suez Canal, the head of the Suez Canal Authority said Tuesday. Mohammad Ezzat Adel said that under the 25-year deal at least two million tonnes of natural gas would be transported via the canal annually. He told the daily Al Ahram that tankers carrying Qatari gas would be given a 30 to 35 per cent reduction on the tariffs levied on the waterway. The agreement was signed last week in Doha by Mr. Adel and Energy and Industry Minister Abdullah Ben Hamad Al Attiya. The canal company, which saw its income fall by about \$1.9 billion last year, had been concerned at reports that Qatar was holding talks with Israel over huilding a gas pipeline.

Kuwait brings in death penalty for drugs

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - Kuwait on Tuesday introduced the death penalty for drng traffickers and a maximum of life imprisonment for dealers only a day after a similar move by the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The tougher measures updated previous legislation from 1983 which set 15 years imprisonment for drug trafficking and fines of up to \$50,000. Parliament adopted the law which sets out public executions for those caught trafficking and jail terms of 10 years to life for dealers. The latter would also be subject to fines of up to \$64,000. Drug users are liable to up to five years in jail and \$16,000 fine under the new measures, which will come into effect three months after the text of the law has been published in official papers. Pro-Islamic Deputy Ghannam Al Jamhur welcomed the new measures during the session of the 60-seat parliament warning of the "spread of drugs in schools and among young" Kuwaitis. Since the end of the 1991 Gulf war. Kuwaiti authoritics have made several drugs hauls, mainly of heroin and hashish, On Monday the UAE adopted the death penalty for drug traffickers and stiff sentences for habitual users. Saudi Arabia has also taken a tough line on drugs, beheading traffickers by sword in public. Traffickers are also liable for the death penalty in Bahrain.

Saudi SABIC in Pakistan deal to sell ether

Ban

MANAMA (R) — Saudi Arabia's industrial giant Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) said it would seil 120,000 tonnes a year of ether to Pakistan under an agreement signed on Tuesday. A SABIC statement quoted Vice-Chairman Ibrahim Ben Abdullah Ben Salameh as saying the agreement was an extension of an earlier one in which ABIC had supplied Pakistan with 180,000 tonnes of eth He did not give details nor did he say how much the deal was worth, "This deal expands cooperation between SABIC and Pakistan because Pakistan is considered one of SABIC's growing markets mainly in the MTBE." Mr. Ben Salameh said SABIC now produced 1.9 million tonnes of MTBE (methyl tertiary butyle ether) a year. The figure will increase to 2.7 million tonnes in 1997 after the completion of new projects being executed, he added, MTBE is an additive which makes gasoline burn more cleanly. SABIC, 70 per cent owned hy the Saudi government, accounts for five per cent of total world production of petrochemicals.

Kuwait cabinet assailed for closure of newspaper

KUWAIT (AP) - Parliament deputies slammed the government Tuesday for temporarily closing down a newspaper last month and urged it to compensate for the losses the daily incurred. "We had hoped that the attitude toward public freedoms was going to be one of the things changed by the (Iraqi) invasion," said opposition lawmaker Abdullah Al Nibari. "But it looks like the anthority's tendencies for dictatorship are deeply rooted and have not changed much." The daily Al Anba was ordered shut for five days on March 15 after it published an interview with a Muslim fundamentalist leader who sharply criticised the government, saying it had lost the confidence of many segments of society. Deputies said the government was given bad legal advice, but should take responsibility for its mistake. Muharak Al Duwailah, a Muslim fundamentalist lawmaker, said the cabinet should "at least resign." The 50-seat body called for "moral and financial compensation for the paper for the losses caused by the closure. According to deputies, the number of journalists referred to court for slander and harming relations with friendly countries has been increasing in alarming rates.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

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WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

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Jordan Television

Water Authority

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL

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This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5. where it should always be veri-APPIVALS

AIRPORT

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights Riyadh (RJ) New Delhi (RJ) 19-55 . Colombo (RJ) Cairo, Agaba (RJ) London, Berlin (RJ) ... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ) Athens (RJ

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13:40 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)	02:35 Amsterdam (KL)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)	******
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17:45 Dubai (EK)	
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21:05 Cairo (MS)	Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
21:20 Beirut (ME)	Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
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IWS IN BRIEF Home News

Children from the Um Al Hussein Orphanage Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, on Wednesday pray over the tomb of the late the first anniversary of her death (Petra photo)

Physical medicine conference focuses on achievements

Therefore the second of the se AMMAN (Petra) - The Health Ministry is currently implementing programmes in physical medicine and rehabi-itation at its hospitals and is continuing to train doctors in this field of specialisation, Health Minister Aref Batayneb said Wednesday.

Addressing the opening session of a three-day medical conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), Dr. Batayneh said the Health Ministry is supporting Jordaman voluntary associations by providing them with spehists in physical medicine

to work at their centres. The conference, entitled The First Arab and Jordanian Conference on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation," was formally opened by former Health Minister-Zuhair Malhas who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

This conference representsone more important step towards advancing the medical services which have been continually improving under the reign of His Majesty King Hussein over the past four decades, said Dr. Malhas in his address to the 200 specialists and physicians from Arah and foreign countries.

Referring to the primary health care services which have been spearheaded by the Health Ministry, Dr. Malhas said that these services have led to the decline of the infant mortality rates to 36 for every 1000 births and a rise to 68 the average

life expectancy in Jordan. He said the achievement was realised through the immunisation programmes which cover more than 95 per cent of children and the availability of potable water and of electricity in almost all

parts of Jordan, In step with this development, Dr. Malhas added, the country has witnessed a con-

tinual rise in the volume of health workers, noting that the current number of registered doctors stands ar

Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Basem Dajani told the audience that the conference aims to help doctors exchange views about the latest developments in physical medicine and rehabilitation which has become a very important specialisation.

Organised by the Jordanian Society for Physical Medicine, Arthritis and Rehabilitation, the three-day conference will review 70 working papers, 15 of which were prepared and presented by the Royal Medical Ser-

Following the opening session, Dr. Malhas inaugurated a medical exhibition in which major Arah and international firms display medical equip-ment and drugs.

Expansion on Karak hospital complete, says official

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Work on the expansion of the Italian Hospital in Karak has been completed, and the official opening of the annex will take place next Thursday at a ceremony to be attended by Health Minister Aref Batayneh and Italian Ambassador to Jordan, Romualdo Bettini, hospital director Fawaz Awabdeh announced Wednesday.

The expansion, which took two and a half years to complete, was carried out by the National Italian Society for Voluntary Aid (AMSMI), which financed the project. Dr. Awabdeh told the Jordan

The expansion resulted in raising the number of beds from 30 to 45, increasing the number of operation theatres from one to three, and enlarging the maternity wards to almost twice their former

capacity, said Dr. Awabdeh. The Italian society, which had built the original hospital in 1935, also provided the health care facility with new medical equipment and financed the employment of additional medical teams of doctors and nurses, raising the number of all workers to 79, added the hospital direc-

Furthermore, he said, the hospital has now contracted specialists in various medical fields to provide additional care to patients.

Noting that the Italian Hospital in Karak was the first hospital to be built in southern Jordan, Dr. Awabdeh said that the expansion was necessitated by the growing public demand for health

Asked about the new Italian-financed hospiral under construction. Dr. Awabdeh said that it was nearly complete, and he expected the official opening to

The first phase of the JD 13 million project will make available 100 beds. Later the hospital could be expanded to accommodate 200 beds. according to Health Ministry officials.

The infrastructure work of the new hospital, which cost JD 1 million, was provided by the Jordanian government in accordance with an agreement with the Italian government which is financing the construction and the equipmenr of the hospital.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Sonth African President Nelson Mandela

congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the

Jordanian people and government on his country's national

day. King Hussein wished Mr. Mandela good health and

happiness and the South African people further progress

Japan grants \$9.6m for medical equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) - Japan will extend a \$9.6 million grant

to Jordan for the improvement of medical equipment to be

installed at various local public hospitals in Jordan, in accordance with an agreement signed Wednesday hy Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Japanese Amhassa-dor to Jordan Yuji Ikeda, an embassy statement said.

King congratulates S. Africa

Deputies clash over presence of foreign film crew in meeting

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - A row between Lower House of Parliament deputies Toujan Faisal and Aboul Karim Dughmi crupted on Wednesday and developed into a war of words over the presence of a television crew at an unofficial meeting of the House Judicial Committee.

While Mr. Dughmi considered the row to have come to an end at the moment it happened. Ms. Faisal helieved it had serious implications and was the result of a personal

The row started when Deputy Dughmi called on Parliament secretary to take a Swedish television crew, that was accompanying Ms. Faisal, out of the hall in which the judiciary committee was supposed to

hold its meeting.

Ms. Faisal said she had permission from the Parliament's administration to bring the television crew into all her meetings at the House that day. When Mr. Dughmi called for their expulsion, she told the crew to videotape her alone.

According to Ms. Faisal, Mr. Dughmi told her to shut up and threatened her with an ashtray. "I refused to deal with

him any more. I left," Ms. Faisal said. "He was simply trying to avenge a previous

Ms. Faisal was referring to a row between herself and Mr. Dughmi over her speech during the vote of confidence session in early

January. She said Mr. Dughmi attacked her in an article he wrote in Shihan Arabie weekly on the basis that her speech was unconstitution-

"I exposed him in a later article in the same newspaper hy quoting part of his speech during the vote of confidence session for Abdul Salam Majali's govrow was one mean of hitting hack at her.
"It is a personal grudge," she said.

Mr. Dughmi, who said he would not want to "make a hig issue our of a mild row," said he ordered the crew out in his capacity as head of the committee. He said he was not informed that They would attend the meeting.

"It is a very normal row that happens between two colleagues," Mr. Dughmi said. "It is over."

Deputy Hammam Sa'ced, one of only four memhers present at Wednesday's meeting, said the committee did not hold its meeting anyway because there was no quorum.

The Lower House of Parliament is in recess, and all of the committee meetings are voluntary, and any agreements reached are non-binding.
Ms. Faisal said she

hosted the crew in another



Jordanian pilgrims Wednesday attend a ceremony before their departure to Saudi Arabia to perform the Haj (Petra photo)

Awqaf minister addresses pilgrims

before their departure for the Haj AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was providing the medic-Minister of Awqaf and Islamie Affairs Abdul Salam Abhadi Wednesday hade farewell to Jordanian pilgrims as they set off for Saudi Arabia to perform this year's Haj in Mecca and Medina. Addressing a ceremony

held for the occasion at Marj Al Hamam, where the pilgrims started the overland trip to Saudi Arabia, the minister said that the government, acting under directives

al care and other services to the pilgrims on the way to the Muslim holy sites.

The Ministry of Awgaf and Islamie Affairs was organising these services in cooperation with the interior, health and information ministries, as well as with the public security and civil defence departments.

The minister voiced Jordan's appreciation of the facilitate the pilgrims' trip. Representatives of the Saudi embassy were present

at the ceremony.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Health Wednesday sent off its medical mission which will

accompany the pilgrims. Health Minister Aref Batayneh, who saw off the medical team, said that its members who are provided with medical supplies and equipment would offer services not only to Jordanians hut those of other nationali-

Bani Hamida women's weaving project celebrates decade through Doors of Opportunity'

By Jennifer Hamarneh baving learned the art of Iordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — Ten years ago Save the Children Federation, in cooperation with Her Majesty Queen Noor. hegan a project that, according to those in-volved, has had a "profound impact" on the lives of the women of the Bani Hamida tribe.

Started as a project "to promote and revive handicrafts in Jordan, while providing opportunities for families to increase their incomes," the project has allowed these women, living in 13 villages scattered across the top of Jebel Bani Hamida overlooking the Dead Sea, to improve their marriage options, help their brothers in education and marriage, improve their homes by adding kitchens, plastering living rooms and adding on new rooms, help their menfolk put more food on the table, and help their children, particularly their daughters, continue going to

Many of these women. have even begun to drive a first for their commun-

According to Project Manager Shawarih, the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project looks back over the last decade and sees that, above all, it level.

example, the case of Hali-Ms. Qa'aydah began

has "empowered an entire community to solve its problems and those of its children on a household

Ms. Shawarih cited as an working on the Bani Hamida Project as a teenager,

rug weaving from her grandmother. Her decision-making skills were recognised and encourday, now married with two children, is the production supervisor. With her income she was able to help her hushand huild their own home in Lih village,

said Ms. Shawarih. Ar present, 1,275 recently settled bedouin women in 478 families are involved in the project. Their suggestions on designs and production are implemented in consultation with the project managers in Amman.

The women practise their craft, passed down from mother to daughter for centuries. Rug weaving, however, was nearly a dying craft until the project stepped in to help revive it.

As spinners, dyers. loomsetters, and weavers, they produce hand-made rugs, cushions and wall hangings of 100 per cent from the sheep of Bani Hamida monnrain and other bedonin tribes of Jordan.

Rebecca Salti, who, as former director of Save the Children in Jordan for 10 years, helped start up and coordinate the Bani Hamida project, looks at the achievements of its women with deep respect. "The Bani Hamida women have flown on these carpets to goals they never dreamed they could attain. Salma's daughter went from Mukawir to Finland last year for a trade show. Hamda, a loomsetter in Zahra. earned a great deal of unexpected money the four

away. And Humeida built two rooms for her family's' goats last summer. Aisheh built a tiny kitchen, home. For them, a Bani Hamida rug is a flying carpet!" said Ms. Salti, who set up rhe Save the Children's Programme in Jor-

Since June 1990 the project has been selfsustaining through the income generated from sales and some donations received to help with export marketing which is currently 23 per cent of its produc-

Since the project's inception in September 1985, most of the women living on Bani Hamida Mountain have participated. As of April this year,

they have received a total of JD 726,705 in wages. In celebrating its tenth year, the Bani Hamida

Women's Weaving Project today opens its largest-ever annual spring exhibition entitled, "Doors of Opportunity. Queen Noor is expected

in inaugurate the 10-day exhibition of local art displayed against the dramatic hackground of the art work of the Bani Hamida

While Production Manager Salwa Sukhun and Production Manager for the Export Department Dina. Shafaqui supervised the rug production for the spring exhibition, a few of the 16 young girls from Bani Hamida who make up the managerial team opted not to go home for a few nights, but rather sleep at the weavers' homes to



Bani Hamida women and their children near a loom

make certain that the rugs for the exhibition were produced to specifications and on time, Ms. Shawarih

Included for the first time in the "Door of Opportunity" display is a new collection of rugs made utilising natural

vegetable dyes. Participating in introducing their recent works alongside their "sisters in art" from the villages south of Madaba and Mount Nebo are: Their Royal Highnesses Princess Wi-

idan Ali and Princess Raiwa Bint Ali, Sharifa Hind Nasser, Adnan Al Ali, Ali Maher, Andrea Atalla, Bilal Hammad, Dodi Tahbaa', Dzehva Khatib, Fo'ad Mimi. Khalid Khreis, Lester Haven, Luma Khalaf, Mai Bdour, Riham Ghassih, Rula Atalla, Salim Bandak, Samar Mohammad, Samia Zaru, Suha

Lailas and Zaki Aslan. The exhibition will run through May 6 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Jordanian Contactors Association Building.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* Film entitled "Beyond The Stars" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 D.M.

* Film entitled "Todos a la Carcel" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

JEWELLERY DISPLAY

An exhibition of jewellery inspired by the nture of Dhana (designed by Ammar Khammash in cooperation with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature) at Darat Al Fumm).

LECTURE

A Lecture by novelist Rashad Abu Shawir entitled 'My Experience in Literature' at Darat Al Funum on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

* Exhibition of contemporary calligraphy at

the National Museum of Fine Arts. * Annual Spring exhibition: "Doors of Opportunity" by the Bani Hamida at the Jorda nian Construction Contractors Association Building, Abdoun (Tel. 658696). . .

* Exhibition of paintings by Lebanese artist

Karim Al Hage at the Royal Cultural Centre.

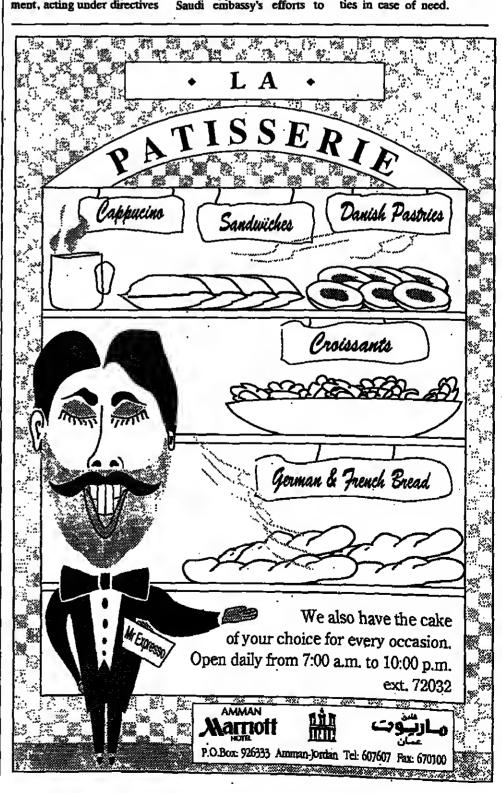
★ Exhibition of plastic art by several Jordanian artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Mahmoud Sadeq at Alia Art Gallery.

de la Memoria" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre). A Exhibition of water colour and oil paintings by Jordanian artists Sa'id Haddadin at

* Photography exhibition entitled 'Fuentes

Orfall Art Gallery. ★ Exhibition of paintings by Samer Ousan
at the French Cultural Centre.



U.N. fears deadly receptions for homeward-bound Rwanda refugees

BUTARE, Rwanda (AP) — to slap, stone and spit at a Almost a year after they first fled their homes, about 200,000 refugees were on the march again in Rwanda. Many headed back to villages where U.N. officials fear they might be killed by survivors of one of the world's most brutal genocides.

The U.N.'s refugee agency said at least nine returnees already had been killed in their home villages and more than 1,000 imprisoned in a bank building in Ngenda, a town 25 miles south of the capital, Kigali.

In Nusuga, a quiet hillside farming community 10 miles from Bntare, 10 returnees were promptly jailed on charges they hludgeoned their neighbours to death last

The refugees were Hutus, members of the ethnic majority hlamed for last year's slaughter of a half-million men, women and children. Most of the victims were Tutsis shot, hacked and clubbed to death by Hutu militias and, in a frightening number of cases, former friends and

neighbours.
In Butare, southwest of the capital, townspeople came out of their homes Tuesday

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Af-

ter two decades of depicting itself as Argentina's saviour,

the army has formally admit-

ted it was wrong in kidnap-ping and killing thousands of

suspected guerrillas in the 1970s "dirty war."

words at great length," army chief General Martin Balza

told the nation in a televised

speech late Tuesday. "I

assume our part of responsi-

bility in the mistakes.
"We must no longer deny
the horror we lived through,"

be said, reading from a pre-pared text. "I can only

"I have pondered these

column of hundreds of refugees beginning a journey on foot to their distant homes. U.N. officials fear their homecoming reception would be far more hostile.

"The government is conscious of the fact that there is going to be a huge problem in terms of food and water," U.N. special envoy Shaharyar Khan told reporters in Kigali. "There is also the question of hostility."

The refugees were moving throughout this central African nation on buses, trucks or foot after the Tutsi-led army closed with deadly force several camps in the country's southwest.

Most came from Kibeho camp, which housed 120,000 displaced people until Saturday, when at least 2,000 were shot to death by government troops or crushed in resulting

At least 60,000 first fled in terror to Butare, 32 kilometres from the camp, where many were persuaded to move on to their homes by U.N. officials and government soldiers.

The new, Tutsi-dominated government in Kigali has been trying for months to get

offer... the firm commitment

that we shall not repeat the

His admission, the army's

first such open acceptance of

responsibility, was the result

of grisly reminders hy two

former military men of the

way in which thousands of

missing people met their deaths: Dumped from air-

craft into the sea, drugged.

and dazed hut often still

of torture and murder, the

armed forces bad long admit-

ted to "excesses" in their

fight against suspected re-

Faced with plain evidence

mistakes of the past."

Argentine army regrets its 'dirtry war' in 1970s

more than 2 million refugees inside Rwanda and in neighbouring countries to return

It was continuing that effort in Butare and elsewhere Tuesday, sometimes harshly.

Aid workers and others said many refugees were being abused by civilians and soldiers alike.

Lt. Kent Page, the U.N. military spokesman in Kigali, said he had personally seen refugees whipped and stoned by civilians and soldiers. "I saw it myself," he said. They are more than just

minor incidents.

A standoff continued Tuesday between soldiers and about 600 men, women and children who were refusing to vacate a school huilding at the otherwise ahandoned camp at Kibeho.

Some holdouts were said by U.N. officials to be Hutus armed with rifles and grenades who were using others as human shields.

bels. But until now they had

never described their entire

campaign as unlawful and

wrong in such frank lan-

Gen. Balza's statements

are bound to cause tension

within the army itself and

with other services, clashing

as they do with two decades

of military insistence that

bold, brave action was

needed to stamp out an in-

surgency that threatened to

take over Argentina in the

Only last month the navy haughtily shrugged off the

disclosures of a commander

By nightfall Tuesday, the army had set four deadlines for the holdouts to leave the huilding peacefully or be forced out, but let each pass without taking action.
The billings at the Kibeho

camp, and continuing difficulties settling the refugees. seemed sure to set back efforts to reconcile Hutus and Tutsis bardened by their years of enmity and threatened to sharply reduce international funding for

The international community expressed almost unanimons ontrage at the latest massacre. The Netherlands said it was eliminating its aid and the European Union said it would review its policies toward Rwanda.

Aid workers and witnesses said the weekend slaughter was unprovoked. The government claims soldiers were protecting themselves against Hutu militiamen.

Some survivors said the United Nations should have done more to stop the violence, which occurred within sight of 200 U.N. peacekeep-

A report Monday hy Hnman Rights Watch-Africa backed up those accusations. saying that although the epers were outnumbered hy Rwandan soldiers, they should have anticipated trouble and called for rein-

who confirmed the existence

of the "death flights" de-nounced by survivors of milit-

ary concentration camps. It

counter-attacked by cashier-

ing him on charges of car

theft and forgery.

Gen. Balza, however, faced with identical testi-

mony this week from a for-

mer army sergeant, repeated-

ly used the words "error" and

military's 1976 decision to

shun the law in its fight

against opponents and sus-

the means," said Gen. Balza.

The end never justifies

pected guernillas.

'mistake" to describe the



A Rwandan soldier stands at the site of the where thousands of Hutus where killed by Kibeho refugee camps, southern Rwanda, Rwandan soldiers (AFP photo)

N. Korea conditionally accepts high-level nuclear talks with U.S.

SEOUL (AP) - North Korea has conditionally accepted a U.S. proposal to reopen high-level talks on stopping the Communist country from reviving its suspect nuclear programme, south Korean officials said Tuesday

The talks could resume in May, South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung

In a letter to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci Monday, Kang Sok Ju, the North's deputy foreign minister, said his government would reopen the talks if Washington agreed to supply U.S.-made nuclear

reactors, Mr. Gong said. However, in Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said North Korea's note did not say whether the North Koreans were willing to resume the talks. He said North Korea

asked for more details on the

U.S. position.

The latest round of experts' talks between the Unted States and North Korea hroke down in Berlin last week because the North continued to refuse to accept two replacement reactors, promised in an agreement last October, from rival South

To break the deadlock, the

United States proposed that the talks be moved to Geneva and upgraded to a higher level. Mr. Kang's letter was the North's first response to the U.S. proposal.

"I think North Korea has the will to resolve problems through dialogue and I hope so," Mr. Gong told repor-ters. "North Korea appears to be aware of the seriousness of the problems facing it." Despite the North Korean

condition, Mr. Gong said he was optimistic that the talks would reopen in May. In new talks, all issues, including who would supply the reactors, could be discussed, he

Clinton lays down roots in Iowa

AMES, Iowa (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton, hoping to ward off re-election challengers within his own party, staged a national rural conference Tuesday in this key campaign state and. vowed to protect small farms from zealous budget-cutters. "I don't believe we ought

to destroy the farm support programme if we want to keep the family farm," Mr. Clinton said, surrounded by farmers, academics, business leaders and residents of rural

Convening the gathering at Iowa State University, Mr. Clinton also called for continned funding of agriculture research programmes and urged conference participants to consider the broader problems of rural America, even off the farm, and to "reward the good values that reside

The event was designed to focus on problems and success stories outside America's big cities, with Mr. Clinton outlining the principles his administration will follow in

WASHINGTON (AP) -

crafting the 1996 five-year farm bill.

But the underlying reason for the trip was politics. lowa holds the nation's first test of strength in the string of primaries and caucuses next year, and Mr. Clinton's trip was one of a series he will make to politically important states as the 1996 campaign begins to take

Advisers want him to build support in Iowa to scare away Democratic challengers.

Opening the conference in this farming state, Mr. Clinton conceded that the farmsupport programme needs modification in light of the hudget deficit. But be said massive cuts would be illtimed, after trimming subsidies in 1985, 1990 and 1983 and following a world trade agreement that be said is opening markets.

"Sbould we modify it? Can we improve it? I'm sure we can," Mr. Clinton said. "But our first rule should be: Do

Mr. Clinton has proposed \$1.5 billion in farm spending cuts over five years. The Senate Agriculture Committee chairman, Republican Richard Lugar of Indiana. shocked many farmers by calling for \$15 billion in cuts by the year 2000.

Democrat from Iowa, said.

ping block.

Linda Roeberg, special education teacher in Reading, Pennsylvania, said cuts to the school lunch programme will especially hurt rural areas. "I teach the future, and the future can't learn in school if it's hungry," she

"We can't take a meat ax to this stuff, we have to take a scalpel," Sen. Tom Harkin, a

With the Republican Congress looking to slash spend-. ing, a whole system of crop. loans, farmland set-aside payments, export subsidies, disaster insurance and other programmes that farmers and rural Americans depend

told Mr. Clinton.

Hollywood actress Ginger Rogers dies at 83

LOS ANGELES (R) — Ginger Rogers, the glamorous hlonde who danced her way to stardom on the arm of legendary entertainer Fred Astaire during Hollywood's golden years, died Tuesday at

Rogers, who was left virtually wheelchair-bound by a stroke in the mid-1980s, died in her sleep from natural causes in the affluent celebrity enclave of Rancho Mirage, the coroner's office said.

Her name will be forever linked to Astaire's. The two starred together in a string of 10 musical comedies in the 1930s and 1940s, moving across dance floors with effortless grace, she usually in an elegant gown, he in a

But even as they won acclaim as Hollywood's most famous dance duo, Rogers managed to build a vihrant acting career on her own, beating out Katharine Hepburn in 1940 to win a Best Actress Academy Award for her role in Kitty Foyle.

In a career spanning more than five decades, Rogers appeared in 73 movies. She married and divorced five

Song-and-dance man Gene Kelly paid tribute to Rogers,

Undated file picture of U.S. actress Ginger Rogers dancing

with Fred Astaire (AFP photo)

contribution to movie dance that we should never forget. Another of her contemporaries, actor Mickey Rooney, said: "I am certain that somewhere in beaven Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers are doing 'just the way you look tonight," one of their famous dance numbers.

Rogers broke into show business after winning a Charleston dance contest. She went on to shine equally in comedies and dramas and in 1945 became Hollywood's highest-paid performer.

She and Astaire, who had a hrief off-screen romance, kicked boredom from the silver screen with graceful and fluid dance numbers in such dance classics as Flying Down To Rio, The Gay Divorcee, Roberta and Top Hat. Movie fans seeking escape

from the grim realities of the great depression and World War II packed the theatres to watch them dance to the sound of big hands. Rogers was born in Virgi-

nia Katerine McMath on July 16, 1911, in Independence, Missouri, and took her last name from a stepfather. After a divorce, ber mother, Lela, headed to Hollywood where she wrote scripts and turned down an offer to put saying she "made a great six-year-old Ginger in films,



File picture dated Aug. 10, 1938 of U.S. actress Ginger Rogers. The actress died Tuesday. She was 83 (AFP photo)

saying she was too young. Rogers' stage dehut came in Fort Worth, Texas. At age 14 she appeared in local plays and shows. After winning a Charleston contest, Rogers toured in Vaudeville team. In 1928, she paired for a song and dance act with Jack Culpepper, the first of her

ive busbands. While singing with Paul Ash's orchestra in New York, she began appearing in short movies. She landed her first leading Broadway role in

1929 in Top Speed.
Paramount Pictures took notice. Filming at the studio's east coast facilities in New York, Rogers in 1930 appeared in Young Man Of Manhattan, The Sap From Syracuse, Queen High, Follow The Leader, and in 1931 Honor Among Lovers.

She was generally cast as a wisecracking blond flapper. One of her lines from Young Man Of Manhattan -"cigarette me, big boy" hecame a national catch-

Her roles expanded when in 1931 sbe moved to Hollywood, working for a variety of studios before winding up at RKO. By 1933, when she first appeared with the dapper Astaire in Flying Down To Rio, Rogers had appeared

in 20 feature films. Fans thrilled at the

seemingly effortless perfecglides, leaps and turns performed as smoothly as if on ice. Rogers recalled it as a time of dancing "to the farther shores of weariness." dancing until her feet hled.

"I loved Fred So, and I mean that in the nicest, warmest way: I bad such affection for him artistically," Rogers once said. "I think that experience... was a divine hlessing.

Nonetheless, it was a relatively short-lived one and Rogers used her success to bargain for dramatic and

She landed a wisecracking role opposite Hepburn in . Stage Door, a 1937 hit and in 1938, she played opposite James Stewart in Vivacious Lady.

In the 1950s, Rogers returned to the theatre and in the 1960s she starred on Broadway in Hello Dolly. In 1968, at the Academy awards ceremony. Rogers and Astaire reunited and danced onstage together to thunderous applause.

Rogers, who in 1932 was briefly engaged to Howard Hughes, was married and divorced from Clupepper, actors Lew Ayres, Jack Briggs, Jacques Bergerac and producer William Marshall. She never had children, sets out on a mission of explanation thoughts."

As accusations ring, McNamara

Barry Goldwater, the Vietnam War hawk, called him "one of the best secretaries ever, an IBM machine with legs." Yet within six years, visitors to his huge Pentagon office would find Robert S. 67. who was a lieutenant col-McNamara full of self-doubt onel in Vietnam. "Why about the winless war to didn't he open up at the which he had committed him-

By 1968, a few months before he quit, the secretary of defence would stand in front of the window, his shoulders shaking.
"He does it all the time

a secretary told a "He cries into the friend. curtain.'

Now Mr. McNamara, at age 78, has broken his silence about the war. He is about to go to the country to explain his errors as the architect of America's most disastrous foreign venture and to tell why he remained silent for 27 years after recognising his "terrible" misjudgment.

As accusations from those who believed in the war and those who did not ring in his ears, Mr. McNamara bas set out on a 25-day tour to promote bis memoirs, In Retrospect: The Tragedy And Lessons Of Vietnam.

He appeared relaxed and confident during his first stop, a speech Monday night before 700 members of the Chicago council on foreign relations. He answered some written questions from the audience, none of which asked why he hadn't spoken out earlier or more loudly against the war.

Mr. McNamara said he believed many senior advisors from that time still believe that the costs the United States paid were justified, adding, "I don't fear these

Some council members earlier expressed misgivings about Mr. McNamara's recent criticism of the war. "It shows a total lack of sensitively to those under the ground," said Sam Sarkesian.

time? It night have saved a few lives. Appearances are scheduled in Boston, Dallas and Austin in Texas, Atlanta, Seattle. San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Toronto, Canada.

Brian Vandemark, a U.S. Naval Academy history teacher who helped Mr. McNamara write the book, sees the undertaking as

courageous.
"Who in God's name would subject himself to what he's endured in the last two weeks?" asks Mr. Vandemark, noting the hostile reception the book has gotten from commentators and Vietnam veterans, some of whom have called reports to demand that Mr. McNamara give up his royalties blood money," they call

"Who else of his generation," Mr. Vandemark asks, "has stood up and said, 'I am responsible and I was

Mr. McNamara's confessional mission contrasts with the crisp self-confidence he once showed the country. Recruited by John F. Kennedy from the Ford Motor Co. just 34 days after becoming its "whiz kid" president, Mr. McNamara tried to run the Pentagon - and the war

 through systems analysis. With rimless glasses and slicked back hair, with his

charts and pointer, with the precision of "body counts" intended to prove mathematically that America was prevailing over communism in South East Asia, Mr. McNamara assured his countrymen that the war was being won at the same time, be now says, he came to regard it as beyond U.S. control.

It took a toll. His son, Craig, hung the American flag upside down in his bedroom and later, as a Stanford University student, protested his father's war. Mr. McNamara once had to flee a student moh at Harvard University through ntility tun-

After leaving the Pentagon, Mr. McNamara became president of the World Bank and devoted the next 13 years to helping the world's poorest nations. Even then he would rarely share his thoughts about the war,

Since the book appeared this month, Mr. McNamara has been asked to explain why the Kennedy and Johnson administrations never examined the premises that got America into Vietnam. His critics bave been unfor-

giving. Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican, a former pilot who spent seven years as a prisoner in North Vietnam, said Mr. MeNamara would have done better to go to his grave silent.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune said in an editorial that Mr. MeNamara came close to destroying the military and the country, and declared: "To profess now that he bad misgivings then - and didn't act on them - only compounds his culpability." The New York Times said Mr. McNamara must not escape "the moral condemnation of

Dutch fertiliser creates a stink in Britain

LONDON (AFP) - British weathermen Tuesday traced the source of a stench overpowering swathes of England to fertiliser sprayed on fields hundreds of kilometres across the North Sea by Dutch farmers. The Meteorological Office was alerted after being inundated since Monday night by tele-phone callers from as far apart as the southeast county of Kent and the central city of Birmingham complaining of a smell of "rotten eggs." Some feared that industrial gases were responsible. The Met Office put it down to a comhination of fertiliser spraying in the Netherlands and strong easterly winds. "The smell should disperse quite rapidshould disperse quite rapally," a spokesman said.
"There is nothing harmful about it and certainly nothing anyone should worry about.

Retirement kills oldest Danish dairy cow at 27

ODENSE, Denmark (AFP)

— Denmark's oldest dairy
cow, 27-year-old Yrsa, had a beef with ber forced retirement while still producing milk and died Monday, just 18 days after being taken off the job. Officials at Den Fynske Landshy open-air museum in Odense said that Yrsa, who bad continued to produce milk at the ripe old age of 27, a record, had been unable to reconcile herself to becoming a mere museum object and died with her boots on, chomping the grass in a field — the death all cows dream of. She had made beadlines when she was taken earlier this mouth, after her owner died, from ber farm on the small island of Birkholm to the Odense Museum for what the staff had billed as a well-deserved retirement for a living Danish legend.

6 U.S. films iead list at Cannes festivai

PARIS (AP) - Six U.S.

films dominate the list of

competitors at this year's Cappes Film Festival, including works by directors Tim Burton, James Ivory and Jim Lermuseb, organisers announced, Four British and three French films are also among the 24 films in the competition at the starstudded event to run from May 17-28 in the Mediterra nean resort town. Among the stars scheduled to appear are Catherine Deneuve, Sharon Stone, Diane Keaton, Andie MacDowell, Gong Li, John Malkovich, Martin Landan, Nicolas Cage, harvey Keitel, Johnny Depp and Matt Dillon. The French film "La Cite Des Enfants Perdus," (City Of Lost Children) by the young directors Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro, opens the 48th annual festival, setting the tone for the event. The film, about a man who lost his capacity to dream and kidnaps children to steal their imaginations, is the duo's second film after Delicatessen. Shifting away from period films that have done well in France but not always abroad, the festival was stressing more youthful directors, Gilles Jacoh, a festival co-director, told a news conference. "It shows that youth is very much in the hearts of our young direc-tors," he said. He pointed to the festival poster representing the birth of cinema - an infant crawling out of a montage of old films, on a backdrop of sea and sun. The main competition includes films from Greece, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Taiwan, Romania, Italy, Japan and China. The other French competitors are "N'Onhlie Pas Que Tu Vas Mourir" (Don't Forget That You're

Going To Die), a film by

Xavier Beauvois about a man

mg positive for AIDS, "La

the future of societies, our

collective destiny," said Pier-

re Viot, festival president

Among the U.S. entries are

Dead Man, starring Depp and Robert Mitchum;

directed by Jarmusch of

and Jefferson In Paris is by

Day). Kids is directed by

Angels And Insects by Philip Haas. British films include

The Neon Bible by Terence

Davies, Land And Freedom by Ken Loach (director of

by Christopher Hampton

and The Madness Of King

George by Nicholas Hymes.

Raining Stones), Carrington

Ivory (Remains Of The

Larry Clark, Beyond Rangoon by John Boorman, and

who abuses drugs after test-Haine" (Hate), is directed by Mathien Kassovitz. "Cinema Mathien Kassovitz. "Cinema Mathien Kassovitz."

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Tike Down by Law, Ed Wood was directed by Burton (Batman) Krige. \$714.

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Retirement kills oldest Danish posed that dairy cow at 27 to Geneva * higher ODENSE, Denmark (A) letter was Denmark's older Os penoque cow, 27-year-old Yra bei Korea has

ment while still protect and died Monda, is * problems and I hope 18 days after being change the job Officials at he iold repor-THE PERPENTS Fyriske Landsby open museum in Odense said Yrsa, who had continuely produce milk at the fire e **PETROUSINESS** acesig it ith Korean May want he age of 27, 2 record, had be at the tails unable to reconcile headly lay In neu becoming a mere made including the reacboots on, chomping the main a field — the death f Cussed he cows dream of. She had no headlines when she waste curier this month, after b 72 owner died, from her lang

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LONDON (AFP)

An elderly man repairs the roof of the railway station building in Grozny where the situation remains quiet as Russian forces continue to fight for the control of the rebel stronghold of Bamut in western Chechenya (AFP photo)

Moscow to boost forces in northern Caucasus

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Moscow-announced plans to reinforce its troops in the northern Caucasus Wednesday by creating a new army corps, contravening the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), as Russian forces battling against Chechen rebels prepared to suspend their offensive.

The commander in chief of Russian land forces, Vladimir Semyonov, told Interfax News Agency that a new 58th Army would be set up in the area by June 1.

He did not give any details on its size, but said it would be formed from units already in the area supplemented by new units.

The army was being created because of the "compli-cated situation" in the northem Caucasus, above all because of the instability in the breakaway Republic of Chechenya, Gen. Semyonov

NATO sources in Brussels said the announcement was "an nawelcome development," coming just before informal talks on the CPE treaty in Vienna.

The move however did not take NATO by surprise given recent strong signals from Moscow that it wanted a revision of the treaty, signed in 1990 before the collapse of

Under the CFE treaty, Russia is not allowed to have more than 580 armoured vehicles hetween Saint . Petersburg and the Caucasus

after November. Moscow has deployed tens of thousands of troops and several thousand armoured

PRETORIA (R) — Convict-turned-President Nelson

Mandela oversees South Afri-

ca's first democratic birthday

Thursday, a year after all-

race elections ended white

"We have achieved far

beyond what we expected,"

Mr. Mandela said this week.

adding that the past year had

succeeded "beyond my wil-

"In 12 months, we have

gone a long way to changing

some of the evils that have

haunted the majority of the

people in this country for the

Some 15 million hlacks

started voting at 7 a.m. on April 27, 1994, giving Mr. Mandela's African National

Cougress (ANC) a sweeping victory. The ANC won 62.6

of the national vote, 252 seats

in the 400-member assembly

and seven of nine provinces.

The white-led National

dest dreams."

last 300 years."

vehicles in Chechenya.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on April 3 threatened to put the treatey on hold if the North Atlantie Treaty Organisation (NATO) went ahead with its planned enlargement into Eastern Europe.

Gen. Graehev said Wednesday Russian forces had been ordered to cease fire thronghout Chechenya for 10 days starting from May

However, he warned that everything will depend on the actions of the Chechen fighters" who have been putting np fierce resistance to the Russian military offensive launched on Dec. 11.

If the Chechens carried on shooting after the Russian ceasefire "we will be forced to take adequate measures. Gen. Grachev said.

"In that case fighting will continue until the bandit formations are liquidated." Russian anthorities

announced Tuesday that President Boris Yeltsin would soon issue a decree imposing a moratorium on Russian military operations in Chechenya to coincide with summit-level World War II anniversary celebrations next month.

The May 9 ceremonies in Moscow commemorating the victory over Nazi Germany will be attended by around 50 world leaders, including U.S. President Bill Clinton, French President François Mitterrand. British Prime Minister John Major and German Chancellor Helmut

Kohl. Mr. Clinton is due to hold

Party of F.W. De Klerk, who

released Mr. Mandela in 1990

after 27 years in prison and

reversed his party's decades-

old policy of apartheid, won

20.4 per cent and 82 National

Assembly seats. Zulu chief

Mangosuthu Buthelezi's In-

katha Freedom Party 10.5

per cent and 43 assembly

Buthelezi are members of

Mr. Mandela's government

of national unity as part of a

five-year coalition under the

country's interim constitu-

April 27 is celebrated as

Freedom Day. Mr. Mandela,

76, has said he prefers that

date over his inauguration

Government Union Build-

ings during celebrations in

the administrative capital

The past year has seen

He will give a speech at the

day on May 10.

Mr. De Klerk and Mr.

summit talks with Mr. Yeltsin on May 10.

Russian officials had confidently predicted they would be able to crush the Chechen revolt by May 9.

A Western diplomat and military expert here described Moscow's announcement on the creation of a new 58th Army as a "fait accompli which puts extra pressure on

He said Russia was thereby leaving aside the possibility of applying the (CFE) treaty's flexible measures which allow for the temporary deployment of extra forces. In contrast to Russia's assurances that the operation

in Chechenya wass "temporary" the creation of a new army represented "a perma-nent deployment," the diplomat said.

Russian Border Gnards seized 40 tonnes of artillery shells on board an Ilvushin I1-76 airliner at Mineralnye Vody Airport, west of Chechenya in the northern Caucasus, Interfax reported A Border Guards spokes-

man said the plane; belonging to the Russian Vnukovo company, was en route to India from the Czech Re-

NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes said Wednesday he hoped there would soon be progress in the military alliance's relations with Russia which have been strained by Moscow's opposition to NATO expansion. "The dialogue is con-

tinuing and we really hope that the Russians will understand that we have no inten-

successes and challenges fac-

ing the "rainbow nation" of

40.6 million people, among

whom more than 40 per cent

of the 10-to-one black major-

Mr. Mandela said achieve-

ments included the expansion.

of health care, including

free medical treatment for

children under six and pre-

gnant mothers, a feeding

programme for about five

coalinon government had re-

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million children and that his.

He also acknowledged dif-

ficulties and mistakes, hut

said he had never promised

instant ntopia for disadvan-

In many ways, little has

changed materially for hlacks

and whites in the past year

but a sharp drop in political

antagonism and violence

marks a huge psychological shift in attitudes.

ity are out of work.

S. Africa to mark first birthday of democracy

tion to isolate them. The contrary is true," Mr. Claes told

"In our opinion, the European security architecture is not possible without Russia and we have no ambinions at NATO of creating this architecture without cooperation from all the nations in Europe," he added.

Mr. Claes was optimistic about the submit between U.S. President Clinton and

the Russia's Boris Yeltsin. "I really hope that the meeting between the American president and the Russian president will bring us some clearer views in this situation," Mr. Claes said.

"I am not so pessimistic. I really hope that in the coming months it will be possible to make progress," he added. The United States and

Russia have agreed to reaffirm their commitment to a landmark arms control treaty and declare that it does not prevent them from developing limited missile defence systems.

The statement, nearing completion, will be issued when President Clinton meets in Moscow with President Yeltsin. It was prepared during talks last Friday in London hetween Undersecretary of State Lynn E. Davis and Deputy Foreign Minister Georgi Mamedov of Russia.

The 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty prohibits nationwide defences against strategie nuclear weapons on the theory a potential aggressor would be inhibited by the prospect of devastating re-

One major intractable

problem has reared its head

again, however. Chief

Bnthelezi, whose brink-

manship kept the Inkatha

Freedom Party out of the

1994 elections until the last

minute, has led his party out

of the Constitutional Assem-

hly writing South Africa's de-

fiunitive post-apartheid con-

Mr. Buthelezi is deman-

ding international mediation

- so far resisted by the ANC

ferences centred on his de-

mands for strong regional

autonomy as opposed to cen-

Thousands of Mr.

Buthelezi's Zulu loyalists

plan to march in the Indian

Ocean port of Durban Thurs-

day. Inkatha said it would

mark a day of mourning

rather than celebration until

its demands were met.

- to settle constitutional dif-

stitution.

Chechens to continue fighting despite Russian truce offer

BAMUT, Russia (AFP) -Chechen forces will ignore a Russian ceasefire offer and keep fighting, top separatist commanders said Wednesday.

"There won't be a ceasefire on this front. It is our right to keep fighting and we have no order to stop," said Shervani Albakov, commander of rebel forces in western Chechenya.

In Moscow, Russian authorities announced two ceasefire offers, one starting Thursday and the other May 1, lasting more than two weeks and 10 days respectively. It was not clear which plan

would take effect. But Chechen military commanders said they would not stop fighting until Russian troops left Chechenya.

Mr. Albakov said Russian ceasefire offers had no validity unless there were negotiations between the two sides' commanders.

"In a war there are two sides and there are military commanders on both sides They have to meet and our presidents have to meet," Mr. Alhakov said in the besieged Chechen village of The Russians can only

negotiate through separatist President Dzhokhar World War II. Dudayev because he heads the Chechen Armed Forces, Mr. Albakov said. Russian anthorities have

already said they refuse to meet Mr. Dudayev, calling him a "criminal of the state." The rebel commander in Bamut, which has been under siege for four months and is totally destroyed, said the Russian ceasefire offers were

a trick timed for the May 9 World War II commemorations in Moscow to be attended by more than 50 world leaders.

They want to show the whole world that everything is okay in Chechenya. ... They just need to buy time for this celebration," said Ramzan Ferzayli.

"Not a single field commander, or regional commander, or national commander will stop fighting until the Russian troops leave and talks start with our government," he said.

"Until then, for us absolutely nothing has changed -

President Boris Yeltsin said Wednesday he would call a unilateral truce in the breakaway republic.

Mr. Yeltsin told reporters in hrief remarks that he was signing a decree Wednesday might halting Russian combat operations during the May

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said the ceasefire would run from May 1 to May 10. This would mean Russian troops could resume fighting as soon as dignitaries leave the May 8-9 ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of victory in

Mr. Yeltsin dismissed the possibility of extending the Russia ceasefire, according to the Interfax News Agency. "We shall see what to do

next," he said. Meanwhile, Russian forces attacked rebel villages in western Chechenya with warplanes and artillery Wednesday after failing twice to storm the village of Yandi,

Chechen commanders said. Grad multiple rockets tore into houses at the entrance to Bamut and a strategic hill overlooking the village and the entire area before dawn.

The latest assaults appeared to be a last-minute attempt to crush the revolt before a unilateral Russian ceasefire was to go into effect in coming days.

The village, which had a peacetime population of 6,300, is deserted except for a handful of fighters and there were no casualties. Most of the village has been des-troyed and the latest damage was harely noticeable amid the rubble.

"I had gone into the village to get a store of food out of my cellar," said Salam Khatsiyev, a Bamut refugee in the neighbouring village off Arshii. "The Grads came in and I had to escape to Arshti through the fields in my slip-pers," he said.

Warplanes could be seen making six rocket and bombing runs around mid-morning on Yandi, ahout nine kilometres to the west of

Late Tuesday, Russian ground troops launched two assaults on Yandi but were beaten back both times, said Mr. Albakov.

They came from the north and southwest, but retreated. We destroyed several armoured vehicles and shot down a helicopter," Mr. Albakov said. "One of our fighters was

killed," he added. The Chechens claims were impossible to confirm inde-

pendently, but heavy fighting could be heard in the area Tuesday and helicopters could be seen flying attack missions, often a sign of ground movement.

In a separate development, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) opened a permanent mission in the Chechen capitai Grozny Wednesday, the 53-member European security hody announced in

The six-member mission, called the Assistance Group for Chechenya, is headed by a Hungarian Foreign Ministry official, Sandor Meszaros. Hungary currently holds the rotating OSCE presidency.

The mission, whose main task will be the promotion and protection of human rights in Chechenya, will work jointly with Russian authorities and be subject to Russian Federation laws.

It will also be responsible for ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid and help negotiate a political settlement leading to future legislative elections in the war-

torn breakaway republic. The five other memebrs of the group are Olivier Pelen of France, Heidi Tagliavini of Switzerland, Philip Remler of the United States, Sten Wadensjoe of Sweden and a Pole, Zennon Kushciak.

The OSCE also intends to open missions in the neighbouring Caucasus republics of Dagestan and Ingushetia, where thousands of Chechen refugees fled after Russia's military intervention last December sparked a hloody war

Chirac row with Balladur could boost Jospin

PARIS (AFP) - Presidential candidate Jacques Chirae sunbbed his one-time rival hut potential ally Premier Edouard Balladur Wednesday, reviving a row in the conservative camp that could boost Socialist ontsider Lionel Jospin in the final. run-off round on May 7.

As Mr. Jospin concen-trated his attacks on Paris Mayor Chirac with a campaign that looked increasingly convincing, the Gaullist candidate was drawn into a dispute with Prime Minister eliminated from the presidenrial race in last Sunday's first-

Mr. Balladur, also a Gaullist, came third with 18.5 per cent of the vote, only a little over two points behind Mr. Chirac in second place, while Mr. Jospin came top with 23.3 per cent. Only the top two candidates face off in the final round.

The prime minister, who pledged full support for Mr. Chirac as he conceded defeat, thought the close result should give him some say in the future shape of the campaign and upped the bidding, but not so Mr. Chirac.

"I have campaigned alone - there was even a time when I was very much alone - and 1 intend to remain solely in charge of my cam-paign." Mr. Chirac said on radio Wednesday.

He rejected a Balladur proposal that the two stage a meeting in the company of the prime minister's backers. notably Defence Minister Francois Leotard and Budget Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, and said he would accept only a tete-a-tete meeting.



city of Otréans, where he held a campaign

meeting. Chirac will face Socialist Party candidate Lionei Jospin in the second round of

That was turned down by Mr. Balladur, who Wednes-day proposed a compromise: A tete-a-tete neutral ground - in the office ofe Senate Speaker Rene Monory — to be followed hy a meeting

But that in turn was turned down by Mr. Chirac. "Jacques Chirac has rejected the whole package,"

with pro-Balladur ministers.

said a member of Mr. Balladur's staff Wednesday. The prospects of reconciliation later in the week looked dim as Mr. Balladur left Paris Wednesday for a

But in a statement, Mr. Balladur called on all those who voted for him to transfer their ballots to Mr. Chirac in the second round. Analysts said Mr. Balladur was responding in advance to expected criticism that he was being lukewarm in his support for the mayor of Paris. Mr. Balladur, wbom Mr. Chirac once called his "friend of 30 years," was accused of betrayal by Chirac supporters for deciding to stand in the presidentials. For months he

by Mr. Chirac last February. Disarray on the right could only be good news for Mr. Jospin, whose campaign has few days' holiday in his chalet at Chamonix, in the French gathered momentum as his mage as an honest politician

with sincere convictions has gathered strength. The Socialist poked fun at

was way ahead in opinion

polls before being overtaken

Mr. Chirac for his frequently policy changes. Speaking at Careassonne, south-west France Tuesday night, Mr. Jospin said "Mr. Chirac has always been on the right, but he has often changed tack.

"We have seen him a virtual labourite, then totally Reaganite and Thatcherite.... and most recently he per-formed a social U-turn," Mr. Jospin said, referring to Mr. Chirac's proposals for reducing unemployment, creating jobs and helping the home-

But according to opinion polls, Mr. Chirac will still win the run-off. A poll by the BVA institute Wednesday said the Gaullist leader would defeat Mr. Jospin by 55 per cent to 45 per cent in the second round.

Nuclear waste arrives in Japan amid protests

MUTSU OGAWARA, Japan (R) — Anti-nuclear protestors scuffled with police Wednesday as Japan took delivery of 14 tonnes of radioactive waste that was shipped from France amid protests by countries along its

The British freighter cardirected by Burion and Tying the waste, the Pacific Pintail, berthed at Mntsu Ogawara port on the northem tip of Japan's main island of Honshn as hundreds of riot police stood by and several helicopters flew overhead.

goon by John Booms The ship had originally planned to dock Tuesday, but spent the night 40 kilometres out to sea after the local governor refused it entry until the central government in tokyo promised not to hury Christophe Madnes He the waste in his region per-

tion.

manently. The waste was unloaded from the ship and checked for leaks of radioactivity before a custom-made truek, heavily guarded by police cars and vans, transported it to a storage facility in the nearby

village of Rokkasho. Dozens of anti-nuclear activits lay down beside a rain-soaked road near the port to portest against the shipment. Police said there were several scuffles between policemen and activists, but

no one was arrested. . The shipment, the first of

"We are relieved," Japan's chief government spokesman Kozo Igarashi told a news conference after the freighter

hundreds of tonnes of nuclear

waste due to be shipped to

Japan, sparked international protests as well as controversy within Japan over the country's nuclear : programme.

The environmental group Greenpeace described the two-week voyage from France as the most dangerous nuclear shipment ever made. Thirty-five nations protested against the ship's passage, the group said.

On Tuesday Aomori prefectural Governor Morio Kimura defied the central government by forbidding the ship to dock. He lifted the ban later Tuesday after receiving a written assurance on storage from the govern-

ment in Tokyo. We will refuse to accept further shipments if safety is not ensured," Mr. Kimura, a

member of the opposition Shinshinto group who took office two months ago, told reporters.

The waste includes radioactive material such as strontium, which has a halflife of several million years, and is mixed with glass and encased in 28 stainless steel It will be stored for 30 to 50

years at a special cooling facility at Rokkasho, Japan's only storage facility. It will then be buried at an unspecified location. Under the terms of an agreement between Japan,

Britain and France, Spent Japanese uraninm fuel is reprocessed into plutonium at a French plant, and the waste produced must be stored in

Russia considers withdrawing Bosnia peacekeepers

MOSCOW (Agencies) -Russia will consider withdrawing its peacekeepers from Bosnia if the warring parties in former Yugoslavia fail to extend a truce and fighting resumes, the Interfax. News Ageney said Wednesday.

It quoted Moscow's chief' negotiator in former Yngoslavia, Alexander Zotov, as saying renewed hostilties might make it too dangerous for the U.N. peacekeepers to stay on.

Interfax quoted Mr. Zotov as saying an escalation of fighting "could create unbearable conditions for the U.N. peacekeepers:" Russia has one battalion in Bosnia as part of the United Nations force there.

Moscow had said previously that it might consider pulling out peacekeepers if fullscale hostilities resume in Bosnia, but Mr. Zotov's statement signalled for the first time that the option was now being considered as a real possibility.

The truce agreed between the Bosnian Serbs and a confederation of Croats and Muslims four months ago is due to expire on April 30 but negotiations on extending the ceasefire are deadlocked.

The Croats and Muslims say they would agree to extend the truce if the Serbs accepted an international peace plan splitting Bosnia in two roughly equal parts. The Serbs are reluctant to abandon any of the 70 per cent of Bosnian territory which they now control.

"So far it is too early to say the truce has been buried for good," Interfax quoted Mr. Zotov as saying. "But I can-not see any obvious way to stop the violence in Bosnia and ensure the end of hostilities.'

Mr. Zotov said the truce had never heen fully respected by either party. But he accused the Muslims of formally hreaking it hy launching a large-scale offensive against the Serbs.

Britain has asked the Un-

ited Nations to replace its peacekeeping troops in the Serh-besieged enclave of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia with servicemen from any

other country.

The Dutch government has also asked for its soldiers to be relieved from duty in another enclave, Srebrenica. French troops pulled out of the northwestern Bihac pocket last year and were replaced hy Bangladeshis,

Mr. Zotov said consultations were under way for calling a meeting of the international contact group, which comprises the United States, Russia, France, Germany and Britain.

The contact group is trying to persuade the rival sides to extend the truce and accept the peace plan out is showing increasing signs of divisions within its own ranks.

French Premier Edouard Balladur renewed a warning Wednesday that France could pull its troops out of Bosnia if measures to ensure their safety are nut increased, notably the extension of a crumhling truce, a spokesman said. Mr. Balladur told a cabinet

meeting that France was still

waiting for a response to French demands made last week in the wake of the killings of two French U.N. troops in Bosnia in a two-day period. "The prime minister recal-

led that French troops can only remain at the heart of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) on two conditions," said government spokesman Philippe Douste-Blazy.

These were "an extension of the ceasefire and the strengthening of UNPRO-FOR not only in terms of protection but also of means," he said, reporting Mr. Balladur's comments.

"If these two conditions are not met, we will have to think ahout proposing the withdrawal of French troops from UNPROFOR,"

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Unrdan Times advertising department.

Encouraging offer

RUSSIA'S OFFER to suspend military operations in Chechenya during the May 8 and 9 celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the allied victory over Nazi Germany in World War II is only a cosmetic measure that would not lead to permanent cessation of hostilities in the Caucasus republic. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has made this limited offer Tuesday as a desperate gesture to ease pressure on President Boris Yeltsin from U.S. President Bill Clinton and other Western leaders expected to attend the anniversary ceremonies in Moscow-next

Mnch more serious though is Mr. Chernomyrdin's offer to Chechen fighters to start immediate peace talks without any preconditions. The international community cannot be interested in just a temporary halting of military operations in Chechenya. What the world seeks and insists on is the beginning of meaningful talks between Russian and Chechen leaders that could lead to an end to the bloodshed. The Chechens' three-year-old adependence bid has been brutally crushed uy Russian troops following their large-scale intervention last December on the pretext that the crisis was an internal Russian conflict. Washington and other major capitals of the world have seemingly accepted this crude Russian explanation. However, recent crises all over the world have proved that no conflict that entails the slaughter of thousands of people, especially civilians, remains only as an internal problem of no concern to the international community. This is where the Russian thesis is at fault despite the support it received from several circles. International law does not view the systematic violation of human rights in any country as a mere local issue that lacks an international dimension. Every international human rights convention permits international intervention whenever civilians are systematically killed as has been happening in Chechenya and Rwanda. As a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Moscow is treaty-obligated to accept some sort of international jurisdiction over the alarming situation in the Cancasus region. Any pretense to the contrary would make a mockery of all basic human rights instruments, not to mention the relevant Fourth Geneva Convention.

President Clinton should therefore use his impending visit to Moscow to impress upon his Russian counterpart the point that hnman rights and their interpretations apply to all countries, big or small, friend or foe. Meanwhile, the Chechen fighters should be encouraged to take np the challenge presented to them by the Russian prime minister and accept to negotiate their future on the basis of international norms which obviously include the right to self-determination.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said that the Palestine National Authority (PNA) entered Gaza and Jericho as part nf a plan under the Osln agreement paving the ground for the restoration of the Palestinian people's full rights and not in order to provide security for the Israelis. No one can protect the occupation or guarantee the security of Israel and its citizens and; therefore it is illogical for the Israeli government to demand that the PNA protect Israeli interests while the occupation remains in place, said Ibrahiam Al Absi. It is logical to assume that the resistance activity should stop within the self-rule areas, but it is unconceivable to see resistance activities halted in areas under direct Israeli occupation, said the writer. If Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government is sincerely oriented towards an agreement with the PNA, said the writer, it can withdraw its forces from the occupied lands and implement the Oslo agreement.

A WRITER in Al Dustour discussed the plight of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, saying that the residents of the refugee camps now live in a state of perpetual concern and fear over their future. Saleh Qallab said that it is not enough that these refugees continue to live in miserable conditions, but they also are in constant anxiety as they feel they are not wanted on Lebanese territory and at the same time they realise that it is impossible for them to be transferred to Jordan or Iraq. Saying that the estimated half a million refugees in Lebanon live an isolated life as their camps lack the basic services and proper sanitation and they do not enjoy any rights, the writer said these refugees have faced the Israeli invasion and the subsequent massacres and siege. As the region is entering an era of peace, these refugees feel that the are heading towards the unknown, said the writer.

View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Majdoubeh

Democracy offers opportunities, not handouts

MANY PEOPLE in our part of the world are under the impression that in a democratic political system the concerns, needs and rights of individuals are automatically acted upon, catered for and guaranteed by the government, or ought to be. Such conception is not only naive and false (a grave misconception, in fact) but can also be damaging to the individual who holds it and to the democratic process itself. Misconceptions, as we all know, are extremely inhibiting and harmful.

There is no doubt, of course, that the problems, worries, concerns, needs and aspirations of citizens lie at the heart. of democracy; they are given a great deal of attention, priority and urgency. What is the difference between democracy and other antocratic, totalitarian and dictatorial forms of government if the governing democratic body (the legislative as well as the executive) does not consciously and actively seek to find out what bothers people and what makes them happy? "Happiness," according to the American Declaration of Independence, is an individual "right." According to the Declaration of Independence also "Governments are instituted among Men" (and "Women" we should add) in order "to secure people's rights." In many democratic societies, representatives of the people in the judicial, legislative and executive hranches of government do lend a sympathetic ear and often bow to the wishes of their constituencies (even though some of them at times turn their hacks to the people). It is not unrealistic of the public, therefore, to have certain expectations of the government, even greater expectations. What is the government for after all? Isn't it to run errands for and the

Yet, the citizen has an important role to play, other than that of his/her representatives. Whether the government does or does not live up to the nuble mission of serving people and catering to their various needs (in many cases it does not), the citizen is supposed to have a say in matters, both in a complementary way to the work of his representa tives and independently. In an excellent recent study of the subject, Citizen Politics in Western Democracies (1988), which is currently being translated into Arahic, Russel J. Daiton examines in detail the scope, extent and limits of the political role of "the average citizen" in the U.S., Britain, France and West Germany. The thrust argument throughout the whole book is that the citizen is not merely a party member, a voter or a political spectator, rather, he/she is a protester, campaign worker, and community activist. There are limits to what ordinary individuals can dn in democracies, but there are also significant roles,

achievements and breakthroughs. In our society, which is confidently moving in the direction of democracy, the citizen is essentially (to use Dalton's terminology) a political spectator. He does vote in elections (more to oblige others than to make a point), but he is not (and I am talking about the majority here) a party member, a protester, a campaign worker, or a community

The vast majority of people in nur society are too passive and too reliant on the government to have any significant role or contribution. Most citizens (perhaps I should say all) — the learned and the uneducated, the rich and the poor, the old and the young — expect the governing body to do the whole work. They expect the latter to knock at their door and hand them magical solutions and rewards on a silver platter. Very few are willing to make an effort, pressure and fight. People in our part of the world would spend days and weeks begging for a personal favour from a government employee or official hnt would not spare minutes or hours to perusade a conple of people to get together, to join a couple of people or even to sign a petition regarding an important public matter.

Citizens in the so-called popular areas complain the while time against large vehicles parking amidst their homes. How many of them have ever got together and spoken to the concerned authorities about the matter? Nay, bow many of them have got together and signed a petition? Talk to workers, labourers, mechanics, barbers, tailors, etc; they all speak of the need of enjoying benefits of health insurance. Yet, how many of them have done something about it? University students complain that universities do not make available enough activities for them: The department is not doing, the college is not doing, the university is not doing. Well, what have you done, and what are you doing? But the journalists behave in the same manner, the teachers, the civil servants, the farmers, etc. They all want the government, the municipal-

ity, the department, the ministry to act on their behalf.

The causes of this disturbing phenomenon are too deeply-rooted, complex and numerous to be accounted for easily and hriefly. Three factors, however, strike me as quite essential in this context.

Firstly, and naturally, the problem stems directly from the way we are brought up. Our parents and grandparents - and uncles and aunts and cousins - cater for essentially all of our needs, not only when we are four, 10 or 18, but also when we are at college or university, when we begin our careers, and even when and after we get married. It is quite customary in our society for a poor parent to slave and borrow money to send his son to college and for the son, who is sturdy and who has plenty of time at his disposal, not to trouble himself to work a few hours a week to chip in. If such a person does not do anything to help himself, how is he expected to help others? And this is where democracy, at one level, begins and ends.

Second, the governments themselves are to hlame. Until recently, perhaps even until now, the government has made the citizen reliant on it. It thinks, it plans, it executes, it does, it gives; the citizen watches, receives or does not receive, applauds or mumbles to himself protestingly, and that's about it. We cannot expect a citizen who has been used to the good old ways to change overnight.

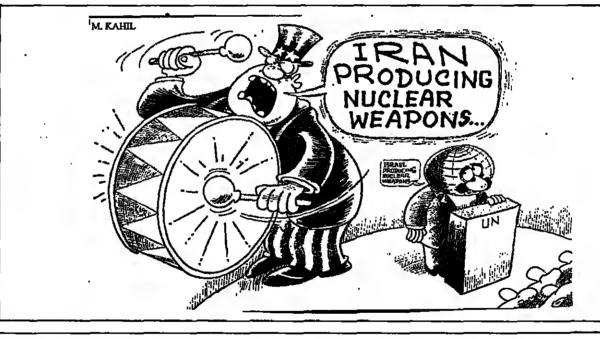
Thirdly, and equally crucially, the problem is inherited from the legacy of the past. The model governor in Islamic/Arah history, we have been told and taught, is the one who goes out of his way to find out in person what aik his people. Our history books are full of stories of caliphs, sultans, emirs and rulers — such as Omar Bin Al Khattab or Omar Bin Abdul Aziz — who go out at night or, in hot days, at high noon — tn listen at people's windows or gates with the aim of finding out what the wishes of the people are, what their needs or complaints are, etc. And they act promptly, righting wrongs and fulfilling aspirations. It is surprising how many people in nur part of the world expect of today's government what our forefathers expected of the caliphs, sultans, emirs and rulers. I personally highly value and highly appreciate what the two Omars did in their own day (in fact, they are two of my most favourite heroes). But we cannot expect from rulers and representatives under our democratic system what we expect from the two Omars. Who has the time today to knock at the doors in Amman and help people? Anyhow, this is not how democracy works. Democracy makes the opportunity available and expects people to seek the realisation of it. If you stay at home in democracy, nobody knocks at your door, except perhaps the tax collector. You have to go out, seek, group, regroup, ask once and twice and three times, and make things happen. The citizen is a participant, a partner, a player in the field, not a spectator. In democracy, there are

In addition to the everlasting task of education, two things need to be done:

- The government, which has contributed (knowingly or unwittingly) to the many false expectations people have nf it these days, must come up with a strategy of wearing people from itself. It is time for us to grow up and mature, and I am sure that the experts at the various ministries and in the national higher committees are capable of drawing up plans to this effect and executing them to the best of our satisfaction.

- We need to have a serious debate - through the media, our various intellectual forums, our higher educational institutions, our youth establishments and programmes. etc - about the various intricate meanings and aspects of democracy. There is a great deal of ignorance in our part of the world about democracy and a great deal of distortion and confusion. We need to understand it better and explain it better. Then we can expect it to work.

Unless our citizen understands democracy fairly reasonably (and he at present does not), how can we expect him to reap its precious benefits?



Jerusalem shouldn't become election issue for winning European Jewish vote

By Pascal B. Karmy

DURING HIS election campaign, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur declared that "Jerusalem must be open to all religious but my personal feeling is that it does belong to the Jews a bit more than it does to others," adding in the French Jewish weekly 'Actualité Jnive,' that "Jerusalem is the soul of Israel and Judaism is the only religion where God has wanted faith in him to be incarnated in a land. Nothing similar exists in

any other religion."

It goes without saying that the purpose of Balladur's statement is to win the Jewish votes. This reminds me of De Gaul's saying to the effect that the tragedy of the 20th century is the American voters, meaning that the statesmen discard their principles and ethics for the sake of winning the votes of the people. Similarly, Mr. Balladur is following suit to win the votes of the Jews in France. Hopefully this pattern of campaigning will not be continued or adopted now or in the future by French or European statesmen. In his declaration, Mr. Balla-dur posed as if he were a jndge dispensing justice be-tween Jews, Muslims and Christians. But he tipped the Jewish scale of the balance in favour of the Jews as regards Jerusalem.

Knowing the mundane purpose of Mr. Balladur's statement in an election campaign, Christians and Muslims should not care less for his statement. Nevertheless, it is regrettable that election candidates should demean themselves in this manner and thus distort history for the sake of election to the position to which they aspire.

However, let us consider

shortly the crux of the history of Jerusalem. There is . not doubt at all that Jernsalem is more holy to Christianity than to Judaism. Indeed the faith of the Christians in God was incarnated in Jerusalem by Jesus Christ, who lived, preached the Gospel of God, was crucified in Jerusalem and ascended to. heaven from Jerusalem. Jerusalem is consequently the holiest city in Christendom and the soul of Christianity. Christians do not believe that the Old Testament has given the modern state of Israel an unconditional ownership of Jerusalem to the exclusion of the indigenous people, namely the Palestinians who are the descendants of the original inhabitants, the Canaanites, the Jebusites and the Amorites. La Grange Declaration, issued by an ecumenical group of Christians-namely Roman Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox - which met in Illinois in 1979 and 1981 contested the belief in some Christian quarters that the Old Testament gives to the modern state of Israel a divine right and sanction to the state of Israel's policy of territorial acquisition. In his book "Whose promised land² Colin Chapman (an Episcopal Church minister) questions whether the Jews believing in the prophesy "have acted according to the law by asking about how the Jews acquired the

land and how they treated

the Arabs; how much of the

land has been acquired legally; how much has been acquired by war; how much has been acquired illegally by being stolen, confiscated or expropriated. As a Christian, Mr. Chapman says he "feels bound to conclude that the promise of the Land to Abraham and his descendants does not give the Jews a divine

right to possess the land for all times." Mr. Chapman does not believe that the state of Israel is of God. He would go further to suggest that for a Christian to interpret the creation of Israel as the fulfillment of prophesy represents a kind of regres sion. That he says "will be a return to a way of thinking which the disciples of Christ had abandoned once and for all when they grasped the kind of spiritual Kingdom which Christ had maugurated through his death and resurection.

important to the Arabs and Muslims as it is the place of the nocturnal journey of the Prophet Mohammad to Heaven. It is also the site of the Al Aqsa and the Dome nf the Rock, which are venerated by all Muslims, as the third holiest place in Islam. In his book "A Study on Jerusalem," His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan says that "The question of the holy places is for Israel a weak point in its claim that Jerusalem is, for religious and historical reasons, destined to be the capital and religious centre of the Jewish state for ever. Its religious claims are not unique but are shared with two other religions, over a

long period of time, with

many millions of adherents

Jerusalem is equally very

in the contemporary

Israel occupied Jerusalem in 1967 and was and is still considered an occupier under international law and the pertinent United Nations resolutions. Jerusalem was a Canaanite-Jebusite city. It was not the nbject or subject of the Jewish Torah. When Moses led the Hehrews frnm Egypt, his destination was not.Jerusalem but only the Land of Canaan, which is the original name of Palestine. It was only in the year 1000 BC that King David had succeeded in conquering Jerusalem from the Jebusites. The Hebrew conquest of part of the land of Canaan ended by the Babylonian invasion in the year 587 B.C. Likewise, the Jewish conquest of East Jerusalem in 1967 must end under international law and Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

In conclusion, Israel and its supporters, such as Mr. Balladur, must not forget that the Arabs and Muslims will not abandon or relinquish their right to East Jerusalem and its holy places. The sooner Israel acknowledges this right and ends its occupation of Jerusalem the better for Israel in the long run. Otherwise, the denial of this right may spark a religious war which nohody desires and for which Israel will be responsible.

Maybe Israel is arrogantly holding now the laurels of victory relying on the somewhat inert Arah Wnrld hut this lethargie state of the Arabs or of the Muslims will not endure

Exiles fight Saudi regime with fax and religious fervor

The Associated Press

NICOSIA - When Muslim fundamentalists inspired by Ayatollah Rnhollah Khomeini overthrew the shah of Iran, one of their most powerful weapons was the cassette recorder.

Sixteen years later, dissidents trying to dethrone annther Middle Eastern monarch - King Fahd of Saudi Arabia — are waging their struggle with an updated revolutionary arsenal: Fax machines, video camcorders, mobile phones and electronic mail.

Many of the dissidents helong to the Londonbased Committee for the Defence Legitimate Rights. the group is considered the best organised in opposing the 72-year-old king, a key U.S. ally in the region. "They are ahead of the

government in the technology spectrum," said Aziz Abu Hamad a former Saudi government lawyer now with Human Rights Watch-Middle East in New York. The government is concerned.

As the oil-based economy of the desert kingdom spntters with cash-flow problems and rising unemployment, the committee is increasingly spreading strident calls for resistance. Its faxes purport to expose

stories of corruption, misrule and allegedly un-Islamic sex lives of the royal family. The group also has smuggled in videotapes of protest demonstrations not shown on state-run televi-The group's leader,

Mohammad Ai Mass'ari, said many of his associates are middle-class intellectuals and technocrats who believe in a pristine form of Islam modernised with human values they learned on Western college campuses. He said the committee

does not envision an Islamic system based on Iran's restrictive model - "even marginal groups like Shiites would have their place." It also would jettison the current Saudi version of a religious state and replace it with an elected republican government, he said.

That puts the group at odds with another activist community — conservative young clergy who are pro-

monarchy but want stricter conformity to Islamic code of old. They have blocked limited attempts by the royal family to adopt Western practices to appease the growing and often foreign-

educated middle class, such as allowing women to drive. Although the committee does not advocate violence, some analysts draw paraflels to early 1970s Iran. when smuggled ta of the exiled Khomeini'si's fiery sermons primed the masses for the upheaval that ousted

"It is 1976-77 all over again. But this time we are in the Arabian peninsula,' said Hans-Heino Kopietz, a Middle East specialist in London.

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Mr. Kopietz and Mr. Ahu Hammad said they could not quantify the committee's support, but both said information frnm sources within Saudi Arabia indicated it is addressing a broad audience.

"I don't know if it is 50 per cent or 60 per cent, but there is a mass of growing disaffection or disillusion. Mr. Kopietz said.

A Saudi resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the group's faxes are copied and circulated across the kingdom. Mr. Mass'ari, a German-

educated professor of theoretical physics, and other committee members left Saudi Arabia last year after the group was banned. by religious decree. The group was formed in 1993 by six religious scholars.

Mr. Mass'ari, who is seeking political asylum in Britain, said he was detained for six months and tortured before he fled.

He and his colleagues bombard the kingdom with faxed and e-mailed newsletters almost daily, giving accounts of strikes, mosque sit-ins and crackdowns on dissidents.

The group's sources in the kingdom get the news to the committee by dialing new toll-free numbers that connect directly to the United States or Britain. Mr. Mass'ari believes the gov-ernment has been unable to monitor much of the communications because these contacts have been used to coordinate the smuggling out of dissidents.

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SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

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then of finding out what the wishes of the short needs in complaints are, etc. And the stant people in our part of the soul, how than people in our part of the soul, than critics and rulers. I personally high agreement what he two Omars did not show are two of my most favourte has Hamadeh Fara'aaeh, a political columaist of eclectic history, has a bone to pick with the administrative committee of the Jordanian Writers Associatioa (JWA). Criticised heavily for granting aa interview to Israeli Television via elephone from Amman on April 6, Fara'aneh said he has been summoaed by the JWA committee for a meeting on Monday to discuss the issue of his continued membership. Fara'aneh is certain that the decision (to revoke his JWA membership) has already been taken. The interview was made and broadcast the same day as the JWA elections for the administrative committee and president, and the interview. according to Fara'aneh, centred on the outcome of those elections. Fara anch said he told Israeli TV that the results of the election represented a victory for the faction that is "democratic, pluralistic and renlistic..." He added that it was also a defeat of the leftist fundamentalist faction that calls for extremism. He told Israeli TV, he said, that the new administrative committee now represented all shades of the political spectrum.
What angered the JWA, said Fara'aneh, was

not what he said to Israeli TV but rather that he said anythiag at all. According to an internal JWA regulation passed last August in advance of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in October. JWA members are forbidden from dealing with Israeli media, politicians or intellectuals. Fara'aaeh, who has beeu a JWA member siace 1974, said Israeli TV contacted him because he is a daily columnist, his writings are "realistic and reasonable," and because he had met Israeli TV producer Yousef Ismail at the October 1991 Madrid Middle East peace conference, though at the time he refused to give an interview. The Al Dustour columnist's life has not been without earlier controversies. He has been jailed in Jordaa, Syria and Egypt, he said, for his political activities -- jail terms, he said, add up to a cumulative 10 years. But Fara'aneh, who is a member of the Palestiae National Council and then served on the Royal Commission charged with writing the Jordanian National Charter, feels it is his right to express his opiaioas at any forum. He said that following the Oslo and Wadi Aroba peace accords, new political realities arose. "I deal with those new realities." Fara'aneh said.

According to Fara'aneh, who said he and his family have received threats since his interview with Israeli TV, the JWA administrative committee approached him through intermediaries asking him to either apologise or resign. He refused, he said. Taking the threats seriously, Fara'aaeh, 45. cited a report ia a local tabloid wherein he said JWA President Ibrahim Absi told the paper that he would silence Fara'aach, if not through expulsion from the JWA, then by "other means."

Waiting for Toujan: Silencing is how House Deputy Toujan Faisal interpreted a Mafrag governorate decision to refuse to allow the convening of a seminar ia which she and her colleague Deputy Bassam Haddadin were to be the guest speakers. The seminar was to be held at the Professional Association Complex in Mafraq. Ms. Faisal penned off her anger at the decision in article ia the local press headliaed "Toujan opens fire on governors aad administrative governors." Replying to that article in a tabloid, attorney for the Professional Association Complex in Mafrag Mahmoud Hawamdeh defends the decision, although it was his association that invited the two deputies to speak. He admits that when the association members first heard of the official refusal to allow the seminar they were taken by surprise. But, he added, that after meeting with the officials, the association understood that the objection was not to the seminar per se, but to the holding of a political event in a non-political forum, i.e. the Professional Association Complex. It remains to be seen if Deputy Faisal will send a stinging volley back in reply this week or whether she will wait to see the outcome of a government plan to issue new regulations regarding public assembly.



Hamadeh Fara'aneh

All the colours that offend: If the name Toujan Faisal is synonymous with controversy, Benetton, according to one Israeli marketing professional, is synonymous with shock treatment. Miriam Kreinin, writing in the Jerusalem Post, accuses the Italian clothing empire with coming up with innovative advertising campaigns "which have no other point other than shocking the view into brand recognition." But while she said that Benetton's advertising style was "a dariag and positive niove" in the early 1980s and that later ads "caused a great deal of controversy," Kreinin takes offence at Benetton's spring catalogue, saying it "doubles os a picce of Palcstinian propagaada." "It (Benetton) obviously chose the Palestinian cause as the subject because the media has portraved it as a 'serv' contemporary media has portraved it as a 'sexy,' contemporary issue," saipes Kreinin. She presumes that Beaetton "knows nothing about the history, depth or sides to the Arab-Israeli conflict" and thus "demonstrates this amply by its incomplete documentation of the history of the Palestininns and their coaflict with Israel, and by a map -aot drawn to size -- that misconstrues the geography of the Middle East." She suggests that if Benetton were truly interested in showing the reality of the coaffict it might insert "a page or two picturing the bombings by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip," or a "picture of the bus botabing ia downtowa Tel Aviv," or "the double bomb set at Beit Lid." She ends her commentary, entitled "Hard sell," saying, "But I guess those people can't model clothes anymore." If the writer has found Benetton's advertising so objectionable in the past, one wonders why she waited until the company featured people under Israeli occupation to air her "professional" irritation. ****

A meat by any other name: The dream of any advertiser would be to come up with an idea that would make a brond name synonymous with the product. But in the case of Sinyora, a brond name of what is locally referred to as mortadella but is really processed luncheon meat, that established synonymy recently backfired. A locul tabloid published an article warning its renders that violntions were discovered in the processing of some materials used in producing "mortadella, luacheoa inent and" -- you guessed it -- "Sinyora." Sinyora company attorney Kamal Saba sent an ever-so polite letter to the editor of the tabloid which was published in full. In his letter Saba snid that the use of the brand name Sinyoro in the article has caused damage to the company's more than 30-year reputation of

being "the best mortadella manufacturer.". Demanding that a correction be published, as he said was promised him by the tabloid's editors, Saba said he would seek legal recourse if the Sinyora company was not accorded satisfaction. An editor's note following Sabn's letter put the blance for not priating a correction earlier on technical reasons. And, then it fuulted Amman Muyor Mandouh Al Abbadi for the use of the word Sinyora in a memorandum regarding violations in luncheon meat processing. But where was the editorial responsibility?

A Nordic breadth of fresh air: Not even here a year yet, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and its Ambassador Tove S. Kijewski, are hard nt work to bring "the first broad manifestation of Norwegian culture to Jordan." Wedged into a week of Jordanian handicraft and art exhibitions for spring, "Encounters," a cultural exchange between artists in Jordan and Norway starts off May 2 will n recital at Darat Al Funun by Norweginn folk musicians Reidun Horvei and Eiaar Mjølsnes and Jordanian oud-player Sakher Hattar. On May 3, an exhibition of Norwegian contemporary art goes on display nt the National Gallery of Fine Arts featuring the works of Goran Ohldieck (grophics). Jan Erik Willgohs (pnintings), Kjetil I. Berge (graphic/plaster prints), Marit Benthe Nordheim (sculptures), Sigrid Szetu (dry pastel drawing), Tove Pedersen (textiles, and Inger Johanne Brantaset (textiles, and Inger Johanne Brantaset (textiles, and paper work). A handson Brautaset (textiles and paper work). A hands-on encounter will take shape in the form of an exhibition af embroideries on national costumes of Norway and Jordaa, and of jewellery. Rugs designed by Szetu, Pederson and Brautaset and woven by the womea of the Bani Hamida tribe will draw the backdrop to this blending of traditional talents. On the entertainment end Kijewski has teamed up with restauraateur Zeid Ksous for a palate-tempting evening of seafood delights featuring Norwegiaa smoked salmon. and a special musical treat on the evening of May 4 at Restaurant Romero in Amman. On Friday, May 5, an encounter with history will take place at Uaim Qais where the Norwegian culture week will organise an excursion to visit the Greek, Roman and Byzantine excavations and the auseum. Later the Romaa theatre will come alive for the first time ia ages with an open air opera recitul by Norwegiaa singer Carl Robert Henie and pianist Petter Authon Ness. A buffet dinner of a complementary selection of Norwegiaa and Arabic dishes will cap the evening at the Umm Oais Restaurant. The finale of this culturnl exchange will be a Norwegian gournnet dinner-dance at Knn Zanunan at which chefs from the Royal Norwegian Navy will prepare their country's specialties, and Mr. Henie will have torn himself away from the wonder of Unm Qais to return to Ammaa to play at the famous Abu Jaber castle. The Norwegian cultural week is being held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queea Noor.

French networking: Another form of cultural exchange takes place daily via satellite from France. But perhaps what few people may be awnre of is that Jordan Television's (JTV) foreign channel brings its viewers 17 hours of French programming every week, and all that courtesy of Canal France International (CFI). CFI was established in 1989 on the initiative of the French Ministry of Overseas Cooperation and

Development to foster exchange with television networks in Africa. It has since become a showcase for French television and cinema production throughout the world. Here for a brief two-day visit to check in oa how things were progressing and how they could be improved was CFI President Director General Philippe Bnudilloa. Having met with Jordan Television and Radio Corporation Director General Insan Ramzi, Jordan Television Director Nasser Judeh and JTV's Freach programming team. Baudillon, n former Middle East and Africa expert for the cabinet of Freach Prime Miaister Edonard Balladur, reviewed channels for further

cooperation and ideas for future plans. Baudillon found JTV to have "excellent technical management," and said its capabilities will eaable CFI to introduce improvements including more on-line information on CFI peogrammes. He added that CFI recognised that cultural preferences vary and therefore starting mid-September special airings for Africa and Ensiern Europe will be introduced. He said the Arab region will be next. This was Baudillon's first visit to Jordan, and it was described as fruitful and promising.



Philippe Baudillon

Keeping them on their toes: Proaising is how Royal Jordaniaa's Executive Assistant of Public Relations Muaib Toukan would describe the airline's newly assembled folklore troupe. Seeing a need to iaject "new blood" iato the dance troupe. Toukan replaced nine of the original 26 dancers mostly gleaned from the RJ staff and from students from the University of Jordaa and Yarmouk University. Toukan had suspeaded performances by the group three moaths aga when he noted indications of a slack ia standards. He said he postponed the start up of the group until he could find "taleated, energetic and dedicated youth" to represent the airline and country at national and international festivals. The revamped troupe will stage a short sampling of their folklore footwork for a select audience, said Touknn, before getting the final sent of approval.

Farewell from the faithful: It was wheels up Wednesday evening for Stephen Griffith. English chaplain of the Anglican Eaglishspeaking Church near First Circle as a crawd of his devoted congregation bid him adieu. Departing on British Airways to London, Stephea, as he is best known to all who know him, is not certain where his next post will be. after his three-year mission here in Jordan. The 45 year-old clergyman was reguled with several farewell parties, most notably that hosted by British cuvoy James Watt and his wife Ghislaine ut the home of British Aarbassador Peter Hinchcliffe who was in England for the wedding of his daughter. Well-wishers from the British embassy staff, the International Community School, the Amnian Baccalaureate School and the church congregation ate, drank and were merry, except perhaps for one Franciscan monk from Massachusetts whose brown hooded robe, typical of his order, seemed to command a little more than reverence from the wniters who avoided even eve contact with him, let alone offer him a bevernge.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Beware of Jordanians with radios

JORDANIANS SHOULD exercise great care while packing their luggage. Other than the usual inconvenience of forgetting a shirt or a pair of socks, electronics can leave you stranded between international airports, and possibly in the midst of an

tional airports, and international incident. A radio, which in international news terminology is called bomb making equipment is the whether FM or AM, single or double deck, Japanese made or other. It can prove hazardous to your health battery loaded radio could face severe penalty in many countries.

If you happen to be a Jordanian travelling abroad, for whatever sinister reason you may have, such as yacation, study or business, keep a shadow of the study of news in the country you are visiting as well as all mulliant resident neighbouring countries within a 16,000 KM radius. Start St. Co. Be prepared to be pulled in for questioning for any criminal acts, industrial accidents, natural disasters,

political or social upheavals. Any radio found on your person exponentially increases the chances of your conviction.

For those of us who cannot travel without a radio. here are some handy tips:

- Choose a radio that has soothing colours and does not make any sudden noises.

- Do not choose a complex radio as that could be evidence implicating you in a complex plot. Even while following the above hints, travel with

great care. If you happen to get caught with a battery loaded radio then act calm. Proper procedure and etiquette require that you cooperate fully with those individuals whose responsibility it is to seek out and punish Jordanians with radios. Cooperate as patiently as you can till your guilt is proven or at least your travel plans ruined. Anything less than destroying your travel plans won't satisfy the media.

While being questioned, avoid menacing looks that we Jordanians have perfected into an art, they seldom

work. Avoid smiles, they can be interpreted as cover of your nervousness and therefore proof of your guilt. When confronted with the question: Is this your radio? Answer yes. Do not try any of the lame excuses that it is a gift for your brother, sister, son, daughter or any other family member. You will only drag them into the conspiracy of whatever you are charged with and possibly diminish your chances of being given only one life sentence. Avoid pressing the "On" switch on the radio at all costs.

As a general rule Jordanians should not travel within 48 hours of any event appearing on CNN that could somehow be linked to you through a radio set. Final words for Jordanian travellers: Always keep a

lookout and travel light, lynching mobs have statistically been proven to form within two minutes. A foreign passport does not guarantee a fair trial if you are of Middle Eastern origin.

Ahmad Tabbaa

Thoughts for this week

Self is the only prison that can ever bind the soul -Henry van Dyke, American clergyman, (1852-1933).

In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations, and epochs, it is the rule -Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher, (1844-

When we cannot find contentment in ourselves it is useless to seek it elsewhere — Francois, Duc de la Rochefoucauld, French author (1613-1680).

Superstition is the religion of feeble minds -Edmund Burke, British statesman (1729-1797).

Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently - attributed to Rosa Luxemburg, German Socialist leader (1870-1919).

Make haste slowly - Caesar Augustus, Roman emperor (63 B.C.-A.D. 14).

Vox populi

By Jean-Claude Elias

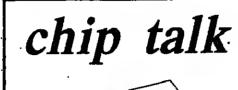
The computer industry is still in a revolutionary phase. Which is to say that it is continuously undergoing radical transformations, at a fast rate and in several directions. Some of these transformations succeed while nther fail. It takes considerable effort, time and money from PC (personal computer) users to follow up the trend.

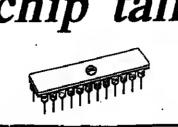
Wnuldn't it be possible for the software and hardware designers to listen to what users want in the first place? After all this is how marketing is supposed to work. The current mode is towards heavier, more complicated systems that are becoming less and less reliable. True, they nffer millions nf features and boast impressive technical characteris-

Computer operators however dn nnt care fnr characteristics. They want a certain jnb done. They want it done right and on time. They also want tn knnw they can trust the system. A few reliable functions are better than hundreds that dn nnt always

Recently, the much publicised flaw in Intel's Pentium microprocessor has drawn people's attention to a fundamental problem — machines reliability. Microsoft is preparing to launch a new version of the Windows nperating system. The new release, so far coded Windows 95, will have three times mnre code (programming) lines than the current 3.1 version. In other words it will be three times mnre complex and prone to problems. When you think that even the "3.1" was not perfect, you just cross your fingers and hope for the best.

Call Herrita estimate each contact for the case of the state of the st





A few weeks ago I had the privilege to interview the celebrated Italian Professor Ruberto Busa who was visiting Amman for a series of lectures on the use nf computers in linguistics. Prof. Busa, nnw. 82, started exploiting computer technology in the late forties. He never cared for specific features, hardware or software details, as lnng as the system could process the informatinn he needed. He never wasted time nn gadgets but spent it on real action. He has input the equivalent of 500 millinns database records so far. A lesson for us all and a remarkable example of goal-oriented thinking.

I have watched young people use PCs. They are the hungriest for new programmes. New features and science fiction characteristics. They also spend much more time testing software than actually using it. In the end it is probably a matter of knowing what we

It is no surprise that the world's most trusted car (you know, the German machine with a star on the hood...) has no useless gadgets nor frills. It isn't even the fastest on the road. Wnuld it be too much to ask the computer industry to take example?

Things can only get worse

By Samer Ghaleb Bagacen

What things? Apparently everything. Just the other day when I was talking to one of my friends, we got talking about the sorts of remedies that we can use to heal our present wounds, he said that nur present problems, be they political, cultural or social, can only get worse before they get any better, if they ever

"What do you mean?" I said. "Look..." he said. "... We have a couple of serious traffic accidents and nne day later everybody is talking about them and about the different ways that we can employ to stop them from harvesting more innocent people, right? Well, if everybody is so aware of the problem of accidents and their causes, then why do they happen at such an alarming pace?

On television, every driver interviewed is trans-formed into an incredibly nutstanding citizen and law abiding driver. If this was truly the case, then whn is responsible for all the accidents that haunt us day and night." At this point my friend paused for a few seconds as if the test my reaction to his proposition. "Could it be aliens from Mars, I said sarcastical-

"In tell you the truth, I am waiting for someone to come forward with such an explanation since all of us in this country are so self-righteous that it could not possibly be nur nwn fault. I mean, if you had seen all the letters to the newspapers from readers who condemned irresponsible driving, you would think that it can only be some alien species that drive around on our streets.'

"Or there could be another explanatinn." I said, as my friend looked at me with inquisitive eyes. "I mean that it could be that the few hundred people who had sent their contribution to the papers are the only serious and responsible citizens who care for their lives and the lives of other drivers while all other drivers are in fact not aliens, but are sad, sick and stupid, and so seem irresponsible."

"Ah,..." came a voice from behind me to say, "... you believe them to be sick and stupid because you judge them by your standards, but if you stoop down to their level, you will discover an innate desire in them to break the law simply because it makes them feel good. Their motives are nnt inherently evil, but if you take a closer look, you will find a mixture of selfishness, indifference and carelessness underneath what you have labelled stupidity. To show you what I mean, take the everyday situation of the car driving the wrong way in a one way street. Everybody does it, but for different reasons. Some do it because they are clumsy, nthers dn it out nf need while nthers do it because they believe it to be a God-given right. Even police vehicles do it. But there also is the other side nf the coin. This is the department whn had decided in the first place tn make a street a nne way street based on certain criteria.'

But, as does everything else, these criteria change. And when they do, the position of nur imaginary street should also change. But sadly, it never does because somebody, somewhere is nnt doing their job

properly.

"Right,..." I said. "...Then what all this boils down to is that nur society is a mixture of the clumsy, the needy, the indifferent and the selfish."

"That is very true..." came the voice from across the room, "...We talk a lnt so we think that we do a lot when in fact we do nothing and so we have

INCREDIBLE FACTS

- * Every spring a ceremony for hunchbacked whales at the Coasts Research Centre in Province town, in Massachussetts, is held an as sea experts could identify their sailing speed.
- The domesticated silkworm butterfly cannut live isolated from human-beings. If it happened, it could never fly.
- Scientists in Chile have installed a gigantic network that occupies an area of 12,000 square feet. A very high mnuntainous ridge was selected where thick fog existing there could have been collected. What was the outcome?

Nearly 1,440 litres of pure water had been collected and stored in each day!!

* In a competition organised for the longest kiss at one of the American cities, a couple managed to exchange a hot kiss for more than 130 hours and 137 seconds.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

Ela ayna anta thahib? Where are you going? - First to the post office, then to the market. Awwalan ela maktab el-bareed waba'da thalik elas-

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

- Did you read this book? Hal qara'ta hathal-kitab? - Yes, it's very interesting and full of human and heroic deeds.
- Na'am, fahowa haafilon bel'amal al-insaniya walbotooliva.
- Will you write to me? Hal sataktob lee? Of course, from time to time.
- Tab'an, min waqten le'aakhar. What do you think of this shirt? Ma ra'yoka fee hathal khamees?
- It's exactly to my liking. Innahu yarookoni tamaman. - What did she do with the love letters?
- Matha fa'alat bir'rassa'el al-gharamiya? She burnt them to ashes. Ahraqt'ha ela ramad.
- Is your watch accurate? Hal saa'atoka madboota? — It's right to a minute. Innaha madboota bid'daqeeqa.
- Are you planning to join the Royal Air Force? Hal tofakkir fil-indemam elas-selah al-jawwi al-
- What's your hope in life? Ma bowa amaloka fil-hayat?
- Tn see my country living in peace with all nations. An ara watani ya'eesh fee salam ma'a koll al'shu'oob.

- TIME FOR FUN
- * As the little boy was talking to his father, a donkey went past them. SON: Do dnnkeys ever marry, dad? FATHER: Who do you think would marry but

donkeys, my son?

☆ BRIDEGROOM: How many persons did you know before me?

The young bride didn't give a comforting answer. The man was afraid she had get angry with him. So he apologised. Yet she still determined not to say a word. After about half an hour silence, he returned to ask her:

"Are you really angry with me, darling?" "No, but I'm just counting them," came the astounding reply.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The Amaznn River flows mainly through Brazil. In what country does it begin?

- The simplest atom is the hydrogen atom. Why is it the simplest?
- 3. What letter of the alphabet represents "Planck's Constant?"
- 4. Einstein is associated with the theory of relativity; what is the concept that Darwin is associated with?
- 5. How would you treat someone suffering from a severe electric shock?

PUZZLES

THREE + THREE MAKE TWENTY In these 40 three-letter wurds there are 20 six-letter words. Using each word below only once, form the new wnrds.

TOW

end	law	pit	sad
ear	red	fat	get
arm	fly	out	bat
fur	ape	еаг	any
era	rot	ore	<i>her</i>
ten	cat	beg	tic
bet	ash	gad	nab · ·
cam	ray	nne.	age
arc	way	dam	den
			

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 27

1:00 Dennis The Menace

2:00 NBA

3:50 Blue Heelers

8:00 The Blue Revolution

9:15 E.N.G

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Shocked

Starring: Jodie Foster & John Lithgow

The marriage of a young orphan to an nider man proves stifling. Her imagination turns to murder, with the Invely New Zealand landscape in perfect contrast to her dreary thnughts.

12:00 Burning Shores

Friday, April 28

1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That?

2:00 A Year In The Life

2:45 Feature Film — Charlie And The Angel

The movie is about a guardian angel whn teaches an exciting man a few lessons in kindness and humility before his time on Earth is up.

4:15 White Fang

8:30 You Bet Your Life

1:30 My Secret Identity

3:00 Survival

4:30 French Programme

7:30 The Album Show

1:00 Lift Off

Starring: Fred MacMurray & Cloris Leachman

4:45 French Programme

7:30 African Skies

8:00 Movie Magic

9:10 The Law And Harry McGraw

10:00 News In English

11:30 Feature Film — A Star Is Born

Starring: Janet Gaynor & Fredric March

The story of an aging actor whose career is beginning to go on the skids while his youthful bride's career is starting to blossom.

Saturday, April 29

2:00 Deg City

2:30 Harry And The Hendersons. 3:00 Witness To Survival

3:30 Road To Avonles

4:00 Gillette World Sport

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 8:00 Documentary — Life In The Freezer

Footsteps In The Snow

The programme traces the early exploration and exploitation of the continent and its surrounding

8:30 The Nanny

9:00 Documentary - Dive The World 9:15 Cape Rebel

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film - The Law And Jake Wade Starring: Robert Taylor & Richard Widmark

A robust Western in which a bad guy, while looking for buried treasure, starts coming a good guy into helping him.

12:00 Tanamera

Sunday, April 30

2:00 Animated Classics — Aladdin

3:00 Feature Film — Hockey Challenge Starring: Megan Fellows & Henry Ramer

A young talented hockey player loses her nnly

....

chance of getting into the final contest.

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Masterpieces Of Literature

8:30 Almost Home 9:10 The Other Side Of Paradise

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Attack Force (Z)

Starring: John Phillip Law & Mel Gibson A group of commandos are nn a secret mission against the Japanese in World War II.

12:00 The Hidden Room

Hungry Girls

12:30 Grace And Favour

Monday, May 1

2:00 Madeline

2:30 Munster's Today

3:00 Hard Time On Planet Earth 3:50 Pals

4:15 Documentary — The Language Of Animals

4:30 Tarzan

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

5:00 French Programme

8:00 Q.E.D.

8:30 Laurie Hill

9:10 The Contender

10:00 News In English 10:20 Strauss Dynasty

11:20 Feature Film — Convicted: A Mother's Story

Starring: Ann Jillian & Gloria Loring The story of a convicted woman and a mother of two children who is sentenced to three-year imprison-

Tuesday, May 2

ment.

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 I Witness Video

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 8:00 Documentary — The Nature Of Things

8:30 Boogies Diner

9:10 Jack The Ripper

10:00 News In English

12:00 Lonesome Dove

10:20 Seaforth

Starring: Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones Wednesday, May 3

2:30 Hot Shots

2:00 The Flintstones

3:00 Beakman's World

3:30 Movies, Games And Videos 4:00 Amazing Stories

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme 7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Marvellous Machine — The Liver

8:30 GP 9:15 Berlin Break

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prism 10:40 Dandelion Dead

12:00 Keeping Up Appearances

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W. TICE

infferent reasons. Some do it because there is to be a God given right.

Rut there also is the soles do it. But there also is the other This is the department who had de i blace in make a street 3 oue man det does everything else, these criteriada, they do, the position of our mage. ald also change But sadly it never

meterdy, somewhere is not doing the " I said " Then what all this ! that our sixing is 2 mixture of the the the indifferent and the selfish." very irue. "came the voice from to We faik a for so we think that we. in fact we do nothing and so me

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the assistanced with the theory of relati the concept that Durwin is associated to ould you treat someone suffering fire. cleating shows?"

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3:30 Road to woole 4:30 12/230

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Wednesday, May 3 2.00 The Filmstones 2:30 Hal Shots 300 Beatman's World Wasier, Garner and Video 4:00 Amazing Stories foreign film. 4:30 Turnan

to the Roll and the Bestulia we the 19512 Machine The setting into an armchair in the lounge of a him

include the poet Alexan- looking at the ocean from der Pushkin, the writer outer space," Mikhalkov 12.00 Keeping 10 Appearance

Spring movie slump has studios looking to summer break and Paramount's than 10 per cent from last is making bad, cheap Friends, a romantic com- Mask had Jim Carrey and The Brady Bunch Movie year's \$1.07 billion. The movies. The films aren't edy aimed at young eye-popping special have done moderately well at the ticket window so far this year.

The new Warner Bros. gorilla movie Born To Be Wild played worse than Tank Girl, bringing in \$1.7 million its first weekend. Other recent washouts include Fox's Bye Bye, Love; Disney's Tall Tale: The Unbelievable Adventures Of Pecos Bill, Roommates and Heavyweights; Para-mount's Losing Isaiah, and Tristar's Hideaway.

North American ticket sales for March were \$301.3 million, a five-year low and an 11 per cent decrease from last March. Year-to-date revenues are Warner Bros.' Out- \$957 million, down more

slump looks even worse when slightly higher ticket

prices are factored in.
"I don't think it's the economy. I don't think it's the weather. In fact, there's no baseball, so business should be even better than it is," says Mitch Goldman, whose New Line Cinema is banking on its Don Juan De Marco to catch on after its Friday debut. The company's The Mangler disappeared days after its

March 3 premiere. Studio executives have looked everywhere to explain the anemic business. The answer always comes back home: they're mak-

simply poorly plotted and acted, they look bad, too. Most of the failing movies are aimed at narrow audiences - the bloody horror flick, the flatulence joke comedy, the actionadventure macho movie.

A few of these "niche" releases have connected with a small audience. Every fan of Chris Farley, the fat comedian on the Saturday Night Live TV comedy show, for example, will probably see Tommy Boy. That's not a lot of people, though.

Tommy Boy opened in 2,165 theatres and took in \$8 million. Meanwhile,

women, is playing in a mere 339 theatres and has earned almost \$5 million in three weeks.

Another bittersweet comedy that also won raves from critics is the Australian movie Muriel's Wedding. 1t, too, is in limited release and has made \$7.1 million in four With low budgets, both

Circle and Muriel's Wedding could go on to reap a lot more, much as Four Weddings And Funeral did last year.

And then there are

niche movies that seem to have no niche. Like 1994's The Mask, Tank ing bad movies. the critically acciaimed if- GIFI is pased on an Specifically, Hollywood ish movie Circle Of obscure comic book. The eye-popping special effects. Tank Girl, a kind of female Road Warrior movie, has... Lori Petty.

Barry London, the distribution chief at Paramount Pictures where Tommy Boy was made, says another part of the problem is that top Academy Award-winner Forrest Gump already has carned most of its gross. Last year, many people had not seen Schindler's List before it triumphed at the Academy Awards.

"Gump doesn't have as much left to earn as Schindler's List did," London says. That, in turn, hurts the entire market: People aren't going out to see Forrest Gump anymore. or anything else.

To save money for the summer, the studios and the independent companies have been releasing a stream of movies made for about \$10 million - a third of the average cost. Some of these modest

past, but few are this year. Furthermore, the companies are spending little money promoting the films. So the quick vanishing acts are almost preordained. Movies are very expensive, and studios tend to

lump together those with

films have worked in the

major stars and lots of visual effects and release them at the same time. Well aware of the spring slump, Disney has moved up several of its releases,

including While You

Were Sleeping starring Sandra Bullock. The movie now will open April 21 instead of in August.

The other studios will release their biggest films beginning on Memorial Day at the end of May. The summer roster includes Batman, Free Willy and Die Hard sequels, Casper, Sylvester Stallone's Judge Dredd, Tom Hanks in Apollo 13 and Kevin Costner's Waterworld, the most expensive movie ever made at more than \$150 million.

Last year's summer propelled sales to an alltime record. With a hitless spring this time around. summer 1995 will have to be even better if another

New films look back to old Hollywood formulas

By John Horn The Associated Press

By John Horn

The Associated Press

PASADENA, California

_ Here's one way to see

how poorly today's movies

are performing: Duck into

a local theatre. At a

prime-time showing of

Tank Girl four days after

This United Artists

adaptation of a futuristic

comic book, which earned

a pitiful \$2 million in its

debut weekend, isn't the

only new movie that's

bombing March admis-

sions were the worst of the

1990s, and Hollywood

can't wait for summer -

and its big-budgeted

blockbusters — to arrive.

Only two recent movies

its debut, a total of two

people bought tickets.

LOS ANGELES — 1ndependent filmmakers have delivered a steady flow of thoughtful and often provocative stories about life. love and heartbreak - a Red here, a Howards End

These directors have failed, however, to produce old-fashioned, edgeof-your-seat thrills. In some cases, their films may be as good for your mind as they are for your

A new crop of artminded directors is working to reverse that soporific stereotype. These current and upcoming titles dollar casts and eye- ing? It takes agonising mipopping special effects the nutes to find out. big studio pictures trumpet, but they are nonetherattle your bones.

Charles Burnett, who made 1990's domestic drama To Sleep With Anger, will release The Glass Shield, a police corruption. dramas. drama. Ĵames Gray's debut feature, Little Odessa

tracks a Russian hit man. One of the most notable filmmakers in the middle of this new creative confluence is Steven Soderbergh, the maker of 1989's art-house hit Sex, Lies And Videotape and 1991's

Despite the vaguely pretentious title The Underneath, Soderbergh's release is a bank heist flick at heart. Based loosely on the 1949 Burt Lancaster movie, Criss Cross, The Underneath, follows a drifter (Peter Gallagher) whose return

to Austin, Texas, rekin-

dles all the problems he

once left behind. One of the movie's more memorable scenes is as nerve-wracking as any you might see this spring. Injured in a shooting, a hospitalised Gallagher fears for his safety. He asks a hospital visitor to sit in his room — not to keep him company, but to protect him. Is the visitor just

Unlike Sex, Lies And Videotape or Soderless entertaining in the bergh's 1992 work, King Of The Hill. The Underneath is what Hollywood could call a "genre" film - a work adhering to the storytelling formulas refined through hundreds of

> "Most people who grew up loving those movies liked those kind of films, Soderbergh says.

"The main reason is they're such fertile ground: Drama is about conflict, and these films have lots of conflict on many different levels. So the stage is set to have lots of subtext and watch these people bounce off each other in really interesting

Not too long ago, some of Hollywood's acclaimed films were genre films — The French Connection, Dirty Harry and Serpico among them.

These days, the major studios have turned the thriller formula into just that: formula. You can see the plot twists a mile away because you've seen them all before.

Other Hollywood films don't have the courage to follow ooe storytelling premise. Instead of sticking to its killer-viruswipes-out-the-world hook, Outbreak wanders may lack the million- that? Or a bad guy pos- into a story about rogue military agents and heli-copter chases. Disclosure isn't just about sexual harassment. It's also about computer hacking and corporate ladderclimbing. The Underneath, like

another arty thriller. The Usual Suspects, puts a premium on story - making sure the plot is inventive without being unbelievable. Working on lower Working on lower budgets, these independent filmmakers don't have to start the cameras the second Bruce Willis or Sharon Stone is available. And since less money is at risk, fewer people will try to interfere.



A scene from Red, one of the provocative films delivered by independent filmmakers

"You can't fly blindly forward to a start date because a few actors happen to sign off on an incomplete screenplay then you often end up with a mishmash," says Bryan Singer, whose whodunit The Usual Suspects is due in theatres later this summer. "You have to take care and develop the material and really under-

stand it. John Dahl has become one of the hottest independent directors even though his genre films were considered too uncommercial to merit a theatrical release. Dahl's Red Rock West debuted in home video stores. while his The Last Seduction premiered on cable TV. But critics - and might have stripped it of audiences - propelled

both films into theatres. Even with the growing popularity of the arty thriller, these movies retain an offbeat style. The Underneath doesn't have a typical, lovable hero, mixes time frames and uses an unusual colour palette. The Usual Suspects is so complicated in parts you have to see it twice to catch all the subtleties, and you don't know what's real and

what's imagined. "I'm certainly anticipating that some people will become frustrated by my movie," savs Soderbergh. "It may not deliver on that conventional level the way these movies usually do. 1

audience of 3,000 in Riga,

Latvia, shortly after the film made its 1994 debut.

up to the stage and asked

me to pick her up, because

she couldn't get up by herself. I brought her up

on stage, and she came only up to here," Mikhal-

kov recalled, sitting on the

edge of his chair and

"A little old lady came

all its potentially commercial elements, and made it a little more arty than it needed to be."

Singer says movies have become too simple. A little confusion, filmed well, can be much more satisfying than paint-by-thenumbers blockbusters. read a bit dense and com-

"The screenplay should plex." Singer says. "If you take a simple theme, a quick read - what may seem gratifying at a first glance when shoot is going to be too obvious. You know what's going to hap-

Like The Underneath. you don't know what's going to happen in The Usual Suspects.

Lone woman finds tough life in Vienna Philharmonic

By George Jahn The Associated Press

VIENNA — For harpist Anna Lelkes, the Vienna Philharmonic's latest tour at Carnegie Hall brought a bouquet few outsiders can appreciate. Finally - after 25 years with the orchestra - her name appeared on the program-

"I don't know how that happened. But I know it was a kick I'm not going to forget anytime soon" Mrs. Lelkes says, still cherishing her triumph weeks after the March trip. People intimate with

Vienna's music world understand her joy. The Vienna Philpharmonic's main harpist has never been on the programme because she isn't a formal member.

The problem? She's a woman.

In its 153 years, the philharmonic never has policy. The orchestra wasn't swayed when the rival Berlin Philharmonic. shattered tradition in 1982 by hiring its first woman.

With good male harpists a rarity, Mrs. Lelkes won an audition when she was invited to try out in 1970. Since then, she has played full-time with one of the world's best orchestras, under conducting legends like Sir Georg Solti, Herbert Von Karajan. Leonard Bernstein and Ricardo Muti.

But although she shares the music load with her 149 male colleagues, and receives the same pay, she is barred from their club. She can't expect support from conservative Viennese audiences.

'Admit women?'' asked Elfriede Semmler, a fur-clad matron in her late 60s, as she left the gold leaf and marble Musikverein Hall after a recent concert. "That would mean the end of an important Vienna institution. 1'm against it." Most orchestra mem-

bers acknowledge that quality musicianship has nothing to do with gender. But they, too, invoke tradition, and some offer reasons sure to anger suppotters of equality for

"Whenever there are cabals and intrigues," said Otto Nessizius, a violinist fills in for sick members. "That doesn't happen with us men. We yell at each other to clear the air. There are no resentments that go on for years, like with women."

Mrs. Lelkes recalls Austrian conductor Hans other.

Swarowsky telling her in the early 1970s that "your place is in the kitchen." Bernstein, however, once called the orchestra

bigoted for not fully integrating her. Only her hands are shown on televised New Year's concerts. The orchestra leadership re-

fused a request to photograph her at rehearsal with the Philharmonic. They also wouldn't comment on why her name was listed on the Carnegie Hall programme along with the men.

The philharmonic's leaders are keen to deflect criticism. They told the Associated Press of an accept women as members if the state subsidised the extra costs.

Austrian maternity laws permit women to stay home for up to two years with pay. The leadership admitted women as mem- argues that without subber musicians, who vote sidies of up to \$20 million on setting philharmonic a year, the philharmonic would be crippled hiring substitutes for stay-at-

home women. With government money sparse, the offer has been refused.

Publicly, Mrs. Lelkes, 56, says her "non-person" status is a small price to pay for playing in the Vienna Philharmonic. "I either respect the

way they are, or if I don't, it's up to me to quit," she said during an interview in her living room overlooking the Vienna Woods. "But where would 1 go? There is no other orchestra like this one." Even though other

orchestras have women. Mrs. Lelkes is an apologist for male colleagues who argue that most women could not cope with the killing pace of tours, concerts, recordings and duty in the pit for the Vienna State Opera.

"Other women have no idea how hard and complicated this life is," she said. "Any woman with a family cannot do this job. There is no room for a family. 1 was lucky that 1 was just getting divorced when 1 came here." As a sop to modern

attitudes, the orchestra leadership says it is working on giving Mrs. Lelkes special membership. But that promise is women, there are always already three years old, and with the legal retirement age for women 60 who retired in 1987 but five years earlier than men- Mrs. Lelkes is not optimistic about her hopes for breaking down the orchestra's barriers.

When I go, another woman will come," she said. "It's going to solve itself one way or the

Oscar winner Nikita Mikhalkov explores Russia's emotional depths

By Judith Ingram The Associated Press

NEW YORK - In his Academy Award-winning film, Burnt By The Sun, Nikita Mikhalkov plays a revolutionary hero who overshadows everyone around him — until his young wife's first love ar-

In life, too, Mikhalkov has an aura of being at the centre of the world — and where Russia's cultural life is concerned, he is. The actor, director, scenarist and producer crowned his reputation as one of Russia's preeminent filmmakers on March 27 when he received the Oscar for best

just an estimation of my Own work, but a sign of a serious future for Russian in the lounge of a New York hotel. "I hope that getting the Oscar means that our films are valued and respected in the world, that is, that we return to our prior situa-

Leo Tolstoy and other said.

giants of Russian culture. So it is perhaps understandable that he conveys an aristocratic sense of ease with his success and vents impatience with his peers who see their mission as breaking

"Too many of my col-leagues think it's necessary to shoot this and that that couldn't have been done 10 years ago," he declared. 'That's not my

Both Mikhalkov's films and conversation are coloured by a respect for classicism, and a wistful look to the past and to recent times, when Russian cinema enjoyed international renown, and to the years preceding the Bolshevik Revolution and "For me, the Oscar isn't Russia's trajectory towards what Mikhalkov calls its "godless," mater-

ialist present. Yet despite the heavy imprint of the Stalinist era on Burnt By The Sun, he insisted, the film is not a historical study. It is a love story, rendered with a miniaturist's devotion to

detail. "I'm interested in seeing a reflection of the Mikhalkov's forebears sky in a drop of water, not

The film, which opened in New York on April 21 and will open across the nation in the weeks following, portrays one sunwashed summer day in the life of an extended Russian family 60 years ago.

Sergei Kotov, a re-

nowned hero of Russia's 1917 revolution, his wife Maroussia (Ingeborga Dapkounaite), their 6-year-old daughter Nadia (played by Mikhalkov's young daughter, also cal-led Nadia), and assorted grandmothers, uncles and friends are relaxing at the family's country house.

The family's tranquility is shattered by a private visit to deliver a public message: Maroussai's former lover, Mitya, who had emigrated to Paris and is working for the Soviet secret police, pays a surprise call to inform Kotov that his world is about to come crashing down.

The year is 1936, and Stalin's purges are in full throttle. The film intersperses fond scenes of family life with hints of the tragic fate awaiting Kotov: During a love scene, the camera cuts away to a large, black automobile the secret police's muchfeared "black raven" parked at the end of the

Up to the last moment, Kotov depends on his role in the Bolshevik Revolution and service to Stalin to save him.

The character is tragic because he created with his own hands, along with his comrades, the sun that burned him," Mikhalkov After Stalin's death in

1953, Soviet politicians began chipping away at his almost godlike image. Over the last decde, starting with Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of glas-nost, a flood of previously banned Russian memoirs and historical research has revealed the huge dimen-sions of the dictator's crimes.

So the general outline of Kotov's story - his odyssey from hero of the revolution to enemy of the people, and the presumed disintegration of his family — is already familiar to Russian audiences.

Mikhalkov was most interested in breaking new emotional ground. "The picture has a very great visceral effect on people. Maybe that's its strength and its significance," he With feigned horror

hardly masking his pride,

he told of meeting with an

drawing a line with his hand along the bottom of his rib-cage. 'She held me tight and cried, 'Nadia - that's me' there was absolute shock in the hall, people started crying, and I just stood

there," he said.

Along with Kotov and the other characters in the film, Nadia was fictitious. But Stalin's youngest victims, who spent their vouth in labour camps and exile, clearly could see their own reflection in her soon-to-be-crushed inno-

Mikhalkov himself came of age after Stalin was dead. And quite unlike either Kotov or his daughter, the 50-year-old actor and director has found favour with fate.

The son of the author of the Soviet anthem — and the beneficiary of the artistic license his family's political loyalty be-

queathed him - Mikhalkov is perhaps Russia's only living filmmaker who has been able to shoot the movies he wants without bowing either to the Soviet-era censor or succumbing to the financing crunch that has reduced Russian film production to a trickle today.

In his next movie, The

Barber Of Siberia. Mikhalkov will return to his favoured theme of love. Two other scripts in the works — for films on Dmitrii Donskoy, the 14th-century Muscovite prince who beat back the Mongols, and Nikolai 11, Russia's last tsar — reflect the patriotism that inspires him as surely as sentiment, and has landed him squarely in the camp of President Boris Yeltsin's nationalist opposi-

Like his aristocratic forebears, Mikhalkov said, his mission is to give something back to his homeland.

"I would gladly give my Oscar to Russia, if that would help give birth to the notion of national. cultural and historical value," he said. "To work in Russia is the greatest gift one can give the coun-

First 'television war' a very different story for Vietnamese film- makers

By Robert Templer Agence France Presse

HO CHI MINH CITY ---Vietnam's conflict was the first television war, brought into the homes of millions of Americans by reporters who created heroic images both of themselves and "the story of the decade."

But it was a very diffe-

rent story for the Viet- namese history. "You al- make no excuses for the namese who reported on the war for the Northern side from the early 1960s until the fall of Saigon 20 years ago on April 30,

You were there as a soldier first, then as a journalist," said Pham Khac, a cameraman who filmed most of the major events of modern Viet-

No records bave been kept of how many Vietnamese journalists and film-makers died in the conflict but Khac and Nguyen Thun, a movie director who headed a documentary unit during the war, both said numerous colleagues were kil-Film-makers often

ways carried a gun as well

Khac's numerous close

shaves earned him the

nickname "the survivor"

as well as many scars from

bullets and shrapnel in-

inries, sustained as he

filmed the war for 15 years

from 1960 up to the fall of

as a camera.

worked in appalling conditions. While western reporters remained in Saigon or helicoptered back at night to send their stories, Khac often had to walk for two and half months along the heavily bombed Ho Chi Minh Trail, carrying his camera and equipment.

Footage was often processed with the mostprimitive techniques but despite the poor quality, the films are a dramatic record of the war that provided rousing propa-ganda for open-air village cinemas across the country. Vietnamese journalists

beroic tone of the reporting. "The journalist's job was to encourage soldiers and praise their successes. to reflect their lives and their fighting," said Dang Van Nhung, deputy editor of the army newspaper

Quan Doi Nhan Dan. "The media was aimed at helping win the war, everything then was aimed at making people fight," said Nhung, who wrote for a small Viet Cong newspaper in the south.

That attitude still lives on in Vietnamese journalism, which - even as it becomes more critical and controversial — is still aimed mostly at motiva-

Most Vietnamese filmmakers and journalists recognise that times have changed and now look back a bit sheepishly at the heavy Soviet style of some of their works.

"I'd make it a little differently now," said Pham Ngoc Quynh after watching his film of U.S. prisoners of war marching out the of the "Hanoi Hilton" jail while a crowd chanted slogans against "Yankee

dogs."
Filmed just before the release of PoWs, in 1973, Quynh's documentary shows prisoners tucking in to food from a heavily laden buffet and relaxing

This early April 30, 1975 photo taken in Saigon shows a North Vietnamese tank passing the gates of the Independence Palace. Many Vietnamese cameramen died

in courtyards, bardly the way former inmates of the notoriously brutal jail remember their incarcera-

Quynh expresses considerable pride in his works but little desire to watch them now. "As a director I treasure the films but most of the time

I just want to forget about

Anguish from the horrors of the war still haunts film-makers, many of wbom now occupy top posts in Vietnam's state media. "It overwhelms me with sadness to think of those days," said Thu, bead of a film company

while covering the war on the Northern side from the early 1960s until the end of the war (AFP photo)

and a member of parlia-

"I lost too many friends in the war," he said, recalling his sadness at sending crew, off to Cu Chi, an area of intense battles outside Saigon where guerrillas lived in a warren of

"When they started

fighting in the Cu Chi tunnels, we sent a crew of seven down their to film. They were all killed so we sent seven more and then more after that.

"After 1975 when the northern troops took control of Cu Chi, we found out that not one of them

nd suspect ma

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Women's international circus in the spotlight

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

By Pia Ohlin

(AFP photo)

TOWN OF PARTY TO ONLY THE WAR BEAST OF THE TOWN OF THE STREET OF THE STR

Agence France Presse STOCKHOLM — The first all-female circus featuring the world's top artists is pulling in the crowds with spectacular acts in Stockholm.

The Cirkus Prinsessan (Princess Circus) is making Swedish beadlines with sellont performances. The event has drawn a stunned adult crowd, dominated by women, stu-

Glowing reviews bail the show as magical, poetic, energetic and artistic. "A breath of fresh air," raved one daily.

The stellar cast boasts

ALIMENTARY

By Joan D. Berbrich

Diagramless 21 x 21 By Roger Coburn

artists, Chinese acrobats, a Hungarian contortionist, Argentine gauchos, and American Diane Tell, who shoots an apple off ber own bead with precision archery.

North Vietnamese photographers 'had to

be soldiers first, and then journalists'

French dove trainer Regina Bouglione, a Russian highwire ballet dancer and an unconventional bula boop artist from Spain are just a few of the

ina will crown the 1995 World Circus Princess.

Brothers Henry and Robert Bronett, who took over Sweden's Circus Scott when their father Canadian twin trapeze died last year, decided to and puffing, muscle- Sarah said.

organise the event as a tribute to him. He had been toying with the idea of a female circus for 20 years.

"We had often talked about bow to rejnvenate the circus. Our grand-mother beaded Circus Scott for 25 years, so it was only natural to bave an all-female circus," Henry Bronett told AFP.

Men can do incredible At the final perform- feats at the circus, but the dents and couples without ance, a jury including women, they do the same be explained. In the Princess Circus, which runs here for a week only and

> are assistants. There are no buffing

flexing beefcakes in this ring. Instead, physical endurance and strength is highlighted with elegance and beanty.

One such act is the Steben Sisters, 20-year olds Karyne and Sarah from Montreal who shine on one trapeze. With delicate arabesques and intricate strength moves, the audience gasps as they catch each other with bare

For the Stebens, the of working in all-female circus was "exhilarating.

"We've always dreamt will not tour, the only men of it. We want to show other women that they can achieve their dreams too,'

China's new rich pay big money for child education

By Alison Leung Reuter

HONG KONG — Just like parents everywhere, Zhu Xiaoying, a village woman in southern Chiпа's Guangdong province, wants only the best for her

For her, that means spoiled brats. paying 180,000 yuan equivalent of 25 years of an average worker's wages in nearby Guangzhou, to send her six-year-old son Chen Juhui to the private "Guangdong Country Garden School" just south of the city in Shunde.

The school, which opened in September. says it is a non-profit venture and that the money will be returned to Chen Juhui's parents when he leaves.

"We were only taught up to primary school." said Zhu, who with her husband is in her early 30s. "We're pinning our hopes on our children."

Zhu's generation found their schooling all but eradicated by the 1966-77 Cultural Revolution when students were too busy persecuting, beating up, or killing their teachers and headmasters to do any study apart from reading the thoughts of Chairman

Mao Tsetung. Now more and more parents in China say although they have been successful in creating wealthy since the launch of economic reforms in 1978, they realise how much they bave missed out on life, including their business life, by missing private schools in the pro-

out on school. Zhu said that if her son does well at Country Garden. which currently takes children from age three to 14, she will send her two equal amount to their payounger children to the school, even though the entrance fee has since been raised to 300,000 yuan (\$35,600).

The school is just south of Guandzhou. China's most prosperous city. where workers earn an couraging students to be average 600 yuaп (\$70) a month but where many are still struggling well below the poverty line.

Visitors to the city, a two-and-a-half hour train ride from Hong Kong, can see hundreds of barefoot, sick-looking children begging outside the rail station, in front of hotels and on street corners.

A Beijing educational researcher visiting Country Garden denied that it and schools like it would intensify the contrast between rich and poor in China, where a one-childper-family policy has been criticised in the West for

"(The gap between (\$21,350) up front, the and poor) is an existing social problem," he said. "It could happen in any school.'

Liao Bingquan, Country Garden's superintendent, said his school was the natural product of China's free-market re-

"We follow (paramount leader) Deng Xiaoping's education policy — face modernisation, face the world and face the future," Mr. Liao said.

"Some people in the country became wealthy. especially those in the Pearl River Delta, but they are too busy to educate their kids. This school is for them.'

Zhu is a good example. Her husband runs a car dealership and she works in a can factory, operated by her village of Nan Hai, earning about 4,000 yuan (\$475) a month.

"Money is not a problem," she said.

It is enough to pay the fines for flouting the onechild rule and not have to worry about it. Country Garden is run

by the Country Garden Property Development Co Ltd, controlled by the local government of Beijiao County. It is one of 19 vince demanding fees ranging from 150,000 yuan (\$17,800) to 320,000 yuan (\$38.000).

"We will return an rents when students leave the school and there is no extra charge for room and board or tuition," Mr. Liao said.

He said the school provided a mix of Chinese and Western classes, encreative rather than just pass exams. "Chinese education, which focuses on grades just to get into the famous universities, is

imperfect," he said. Teachers at Country Garden said it provided the kind of facilities a government school could not begin to offer -- computers in the classroom, a

campus covering more than 25 hectares (60 acres) and eventually including four swimming pools, one heated, and even its own observatory.

The teachers earn some 2.250 учал (\$270) а month, well above the 600 yuan (\$70) to 1,500 yuan strictly monitor the (\$180) their counterparts schools development. spawning a generation of earn in public schools else-

where in China. Mr. Liao said a number of headmasters had come to Guangdong from Beijing to set up private schools because they saw the province's wealth providing their schools with higher autonomy and better facilities.

'We are the group of people hoping to walk a bit ahead (in China's education reform)," said Mr. Liao, a former textbook editor.

Demand for places has been bigher than expected. Country Garden has more than 1,400 pupils and will have more than 3,000 when it is fully up country a penny.

Twelve more schools offering similar schemes and approved by the pro-vincial government are in the pipeline. But no more applications are to be , accepted and Guangdong officials say they will

The fees have raised concerns in Beijing where some senior officials have branded them "aristocratic schools."

"I totally agree that aristocratic schools should not be built in China, a Socialist country." Mr. Liao said. "But a high fee school is not necessarily an aristocratic school."

The visiting researcher from Beijing said a school should be judged on its education objectives, not on its fees.

"You see, this is wonderful," he said. "Such a beautiful school and it doesn't cost the

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

Peru. It begins in the lowlands of north-east Peru at the juncture of the Maranon and Ucayali rivers which rise in the Andes Mountains.

It is made up of a nucleus of only one proton around which moves only one electron. Every atom contains a nucleus that is made up of protons, and neutrons around which electrons

The hydrogen atom is the simplest because it contains the least number of these particles possible - one proton, no neutrons, one electron.

4. Evolution. The theory of evolution through gradual change.

(i) Switch off the current and/or drag the patient away WITHOUT TOUCHING HIM DIRECT-

(ii) Call a doctor.

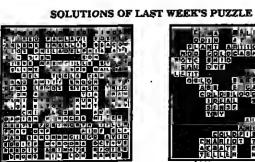
(iii) If unconscious, apply the kiss of life or some kind of artificial respiration until told to stop by a

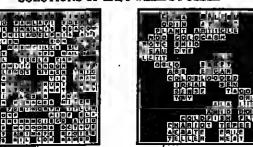
(iv) Keep patient cool and quiet.

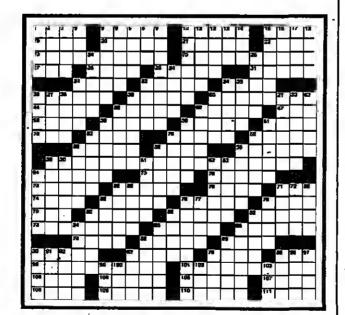
PUZZLES

THREE + THREE MAKE TWENTY

CANAPE	GADFLY
ENDEAR	CATNAP
CARROT	ASHORE
ARMPIT	ANYWA Y
<i>FURROW</i>	FORGET
BATTEN	FATHER
BETRAY	BEGONE
ARCTIC	SADDEN
REDACT	DAMAGI
OUTLAW	CAMERA







Last Week's Cryptograms t. Are haboes still making chaik morks on curbs in front af houses good for handouts? 2. Talk about today's debaochery! How obout nil the meeting and kissing that went on cossin' through the rye?

 Good example of badly mixed metaphore: "It's like shooting fish in a harrel of monkeys." 4. What o woird duet it could be to poir a tuha with a piecolo.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1.VTTZ JTCAM HTJ LYQ ET CBE LDB AKO BDRIBZ HDPJPRB DA TZQBZ RT QRADIRZ ELR RTAMEBE ANDBYYVKZ ZTCEK DA BLE - By Earl Ireland

2.SDUBC, YZDAQUWHR QRQWHAM UNJCAMWY EWNBCHYC, ZQLA IWA RQECB MN CJLIQMWYQBBP YCHADZC LDHYI QRU SDUP.

3.EB SHR YGBE CRDP ZLIATS ZTALE GR DEFATCITIAPD PRELS GO FLOPS GEDPALE

4.PELWN WGUDGWWY FALLDVVDACWN DA KIDRN BYDNUW PAIGN MW MEN FALLDOOWN FAHAVVER NWVDUG WYYAY, — By Ed Buddleson

(Continued from page 1)

in an Arab book exhibition

which will be held in Pales-

It will also host a 12-15-

member Palestinian theatre

group which will participate

in the youth theatre festival

which will be beld in June.

Culture will also host for one

week a Jordanian theatres

group which will tour several

Palestinian cities in October.

The two sides will meet in

the second week of Decem-

her to prepare the executive

programme for the year 1996.
Mr. Abed Rabbo, who ar-

rived in Amman earlier on

the day via the King Hussein

Bridge, said he was confident

the coming stage would wit-

ness a vast range of cultural

and information activities

carried out jointly by the two

(Continued from page 1)

mad Mamsar of the physical

education faculty. He called

for ending disputes between

students and said they should

not allow anyone to under-

mise national nnity.

Mohammad Wisbah, rep-

resentative of students from

Salt, and, Amjad Qoursha, a representative of Circassian

students, called on students

to avoid disputes and resolve

them through dialogue in

order to preserve the King-dom's stability and security.

(Continued from page 1)

chapters.
Mr. Prague said the politic-

al chapter of the declaration

will stress the principles of

democracy, human rights and

freedom as basis for coopera-

ion among the EU and the

Mediterranean countries but

will not discuss the mechan-

ism of achieving these goals

as it is "still early to do so,"

and in order not to interfere

with the peace process.

The humanitarian chapter

will emphasise the imple-

mentation of projects that

would target the improve-ment of health, education

and other services that aim at

improving the quality of liv-

French Amhassador to

ing of people of the area.

Amman Bernard Bajolet,

whose country entrently

of the EU, said the confer-

ence will also discuss creating

security structure for the

Mediterranean basin along

the lines of the Organisation

for Security and Cooperation

The economic chapter will

seek to encourage trade among countries of the

Mediterranean as well as

trade between these coun-

The EU hopes to create a free trade zone between the

two groups that would be the

tries and the EU.

in Europe.

University officials on

EU delegation leaves

Students stage rally

The Palestinian Ministry of

Transport talks end

director general of transport,

The two sides agreed to

enhance relations in land

transport and stressed the im-

portance of facilitating the

passage of individuals, goods

and vehicles licensed in the

two countries and to encour-

age the movement of tourist

groups between the two

They also agreed to adopt Jordanian standards on the

weight of vehicles moving be-

Tuesday said tough measures

would be taken against the

perpetrators of the April 5

More than 110 students were questioned by the com-

mittee appointed by the university administration follow-

The officials said the out-

The university clashes left

come of the committee's in-

quiries would be made public

more than 20 students, in-

jured and were followed a

week later by a smaller brawl

in which three students were

that a minimum amount

equal to the most recent

trade protocol between the

EU and the given countries

should be allocated to each

country with the rest open to

competition on the basis of

the submission of projects that qualify to be financed by

the package, European

The first-come-first-serve

hasis is applied in the finan-

cial aid package to Eastern Europe with the EU financ-

ing feasible projects in the

qualifying countries with no

ceilings imposed on how

much funds each country can

draw and no minimum amount reserved for any of

Mediterranean countries in

addition to the 15 EU mem-

bers will participate in the

not certain yet that all coun-

tries involved will be attend-

A European source said that it is not still certain that

Syria and Lehanon will

attend the conference, with

Syria conditioning its attend-

ance on progress in its bilateral peace talks with Israel, which will be attend-

With Libya excluded from

the conference due to the

political tension between it

and Europe, the absence of

celona could be a setback to

the conference, said a Euro-

pean official, but added that

their absence will not result

in altering plans for the Barcelona meeting.
Syria and Lebanon are

boycotting the multilateral talks of the Arab-Israeli

peace talks because of the failure of the bilateral talks to

achieve tangible progress.

Europe plays a major role in

attending the Barcelona con-

ference, it will not qualify to

receive funds from the EU

under the financial aid pack-

age because the EU does not

consider it among the de-

veloping nations that are eligible for this kind of EU

Even though Israel will be

the multilateral talks.

ing the conference.

The EU hopes that 12

the country.

ing the clashes.

sides' territories.

tween the two sides.

Mahmoud Al Qawasmeh.

Transport.

In another development,

film-makers*

vering the war on the North che early 1960s until the end wer of parlia-Figuring in the Ca Carl nels we sent a cres

After 1975 when:

raute salge

lar schen

- птеш ж

many inends wen down their to fe The were all killed w. he said, redness at send. sent seven more and b to Ca Chi, an more after that. se battles outrorthern troops took o shere guerrila warren of trick of Cu Chi, we has our that not one of it hey statted had surned."

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PART IN UNIT

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or care were T Chiaran altere the me. --- *h*ল ল A LONG NUMBER monuter if 25 elopmen counterparts. Section Comments . . tes bave max and a number of the Senny Wi .c. .c rotticas 🗷 THE STREET Ar Private was they run the old size. s живал дин 后 (加) Schools with and with But 2 hasis الأرا الإسلامين والثا to the Back of Sec. 4.2. But s منتقع فالشاوي سرايا والمساورة

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pulation was and good

the second secon largest in the world with 800 million inbabitants. Mr. Bajolet said the Barcelona conference could also announce a 5.16 billion European currency units (EUCs) financial aid package to Mediterranean countries to finance in the form of loans ANSWERS projects of regional character. An equal amount could ANK OF KNOWLEDGE be offered by the European Investment Bank in soft loans to countries which qualify to State of the Many many Lorder benefit from the financial aid e in the State of until It is not settled yet how the they have the second that the second the first The framework of the fire executing

package will be distributed among qualifying countries, with Germany stressing for disharman disbursing it on a "first-comefirst serve" basis with no limit on how much money each country could draw from the package and France saying

Second suspect may be dead (Continued from page 1)

funding.

High winds slowed the

search for the missing people who may have been trapped inside the Alfred Murah Federal Building when the bomb exploded. Several times workers were

told to clear the area because winds were whipping loose debris from upper floors down onto people digging through a 300-tonne pile of dehris on the ground in front of the shell of the huilding.

In addition to linking the Nichols brothers to McVeigh, the charges allow the govern-ment to continue holding the men, who previously were in custody as material witnesses. James is being held in Michigan, Terry in Kansas.

In the Michigan case, the affidavit said Terry Nicbols had "survival books" with information about making ammonium nitrate bombs,

the kind used at the federal building. It also said materials that could be used in an "improvised bomb," including 22.7-kilogramme bags of fertiliser containing ammonium nitrate, were at this

An early version of the affidavit said neighbour Daniel Stomber beard James Nichols "stating that judges and President Clinton should be killed, and that he blamed the FBI and the ATF (Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) for the killing the Branch Davidians" in an assault on the sect's compound in Waco, Texas, exactly two years before the Oklahoma City blast.

The information about Mr. Clinton and the judges was missing from a revised version of the document filed with the charges. The FBI did not explain why the material

Jordan, PNA sign accord | Symposium advances efforts

(Continued from page 1)

Jordanian-Palestinian talks have something to contribute affirmatively to the process," on land transport concluded he said. "What they have are Wednesday at the Ministry of three governments (the U.S., Jordan and Israel) which are The Jordanian side in the two-day talks was headed by doing everything they can do Director General of the practically in a timely fashion Jordanian Ports Corporation to make sure that the goals of Dureid Mahasneh and the the peace agreement are Palestinian side by the PNA's actually fulfilled."

'Nobody suggested that there would be a tender offer at this conference," he said. "Dozens of people .. felt that they are returning bome to the U.S. with a much clearer understanding of the political commitment, the will, the determination to develop the Jordan Rift Valley."

Mr. Grandmaison said he was "of the belief that the companies here, the vast majority of them, will decide that it is in their individual interests to try to participate in this development.'

Dr. Ammari and Michael Arbel, bead of the research and development coopera-tion division of the Israeli foreign ministry, said Jordan and Israel were in full agreement on the necessity to establish a joint authority to supervise Jordan Rift Valley development in all its

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan referred to such an authority in an address at the opening of the symposium on Monday and Israeli Foreign Minister Sbimon Peres said the idea was fully acceptable to Israel.

Dr. Arbel told Wednesday press conference: "The proposal is well received in Israel. Definitely we will take it seriously and form the right structure in order to answer all questions, whether it is legality, or facility ... or direct observance of finance ing ..."
Dr. Ammari said there was

no disagreement between Jordan and Israel over the issue but that while Jordan wanted a quick establishment of a legal entity that would be in charge of the government role in the Jordan Rift Valicy, "our Israeli colleagues would rather, in some areas, wait and see what projects can be identified and implemented, whether they are "It is just a matter of tim-

ing," he said. "But we both agree on the necessity of having such a legal entity." Another key product of the symposium, was the

announcement of a "regional equity fund" of \$250 million for five countries in the region, including Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Israel and Morocco as well as the Palestinians. Dr. Ammari explained that

"such fund aims to promote the private sector on a regional basis" and that "de-finitely some of the funds will be allocated td the private sector in a way to promote their role in the development of the country and the region

at large."
On Tuesday, Christopher Finn, executive vice-president of the Overseas Private Syria and Lebanon from Bar-Investment Corporation, a U.S. agency, said \$75 million pledged by President Bill Clinton during a speech to the Jordanian Parliament on Oct. 26 were being channelled to the "regional equity fund.

Mr. Grandmaison said Wednesday that "if Jordan accelerates the development of projects that would presumably be funded then it would proportionately receive a portion of the fund.

"The challenge is to have all the project work done to take advantage of the fund," be added. In Wednesday's press con-

ference, Dr. Ammari also rejects a suggestion that the symposium was more of a political exercise. In a way it does show the

interest of all the parties, the Israelis, the Jordanians, the U.S., in reaching a successful conclusion to the development of the Jordan Rift Valhe said. ley," he said.

The very presence of
Crown Prince Hassan and

clearly stated the willingess of all the governments" to achieving that objective. Now we are close to identifying feasible projects that can be implemented in the

Mr. Peres at the symposium

coming years," he added.
Dr. Ammari, Dr. Arbel
and Mr. Grandmaison also
dimissed reports in the local press that the European governments were unhappy with what was described as their being kept at a distance in the preparations to the Amman economic summit.

Both Dr. Ammari and Dr. Arbel said Jordan and Israel were fully-confident that the European Union (EU) would play a key role in the success the summit.

"The EU will be directly involved, they are willing to be involved, (and) they have to be involved in the success of the summit," said Dr. Ammari.

"It is not an impression, hut a fact ...," added Dr. Mr. Grandmaison said the

special interest the U.S. was taking in the development of the Jordan Rift Valley stemmed from the very direct role Washington also assumed in Middle East peacekeeping and hringing about the peace treaty between Jordan and

"We take special pride in that," he said. "We bave a bond because our honour is at stake as well in making (peace) work." 'We will do everything

from a practical point of view to help (Jordan and Israel) as they go about preparing for the conference in October," said the TDA director, who is directly answerable to the White House.

"The U.S. government's belief is that at this time the best way we can belp is to challenge our own private sector to jump in and get involved. We have accepted that responsibility and consider an honour to fulfill it."

Dr. Ammari also announced that a Jordanian-Canadian business seminar would be held on May 7 and that the government was planning several other similar workshops ahead of the Am-

Chirac may yet snatch defeat from victory's jaws

By Paul Taylor Reuter

PARIS - This was the election Jacques Chirac could not lose.

After two failed presdential bids and a lonely period in the political wilderness, the conservatives Paris mayor was at last the hot favourite in Sun-

day's first round of voting.

All opinion polls from early March right up to polling day gave Mr. Chirac, 62, a wide lead over Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin, with fellow Gaullist Prime Minister Edouard Ralladur trailing third Balladur trailing third. Yet Mr. Chirac nearly

threw away his chance with an ill-judged attack on the governor of France's independent Central Bank that revived old questions about his judgement and consistency.
"Chirac ric-rac" — Chir-

ac by the skin of his teeth was the headline of the leftof-centre daily Liberation. In second place with a mere 20.8 per cent of the vote, the Gaullist leader added less than one percentage point to his first round score in the 1988 election against President François Mitterrand, despite a fivemonth campaign in which he travelled 25,000 km and

shook countless hands. The energetic Mr. Chirac's ability to win the decisive second round against Mr. Jospin in two weeks'

time may depend crucially on his ability to keep his foot out of his mouth.

The French people do not like my husband," his wife Bernadette commented after the 1988 de-

This time, it appeared the French people were reconciled, or perhaps resigned, to the idea that Mr. Chirac's time had come. His catchy slogan "France for all" and his apple-tree logo had won wide popularity.

A calmer, less impulsive, more socially conscious Mr. Chirac had attracted more than a third of young voters, a quarter of the working class as well as his traditional rural, middle class and small business chemteles to make him the people's

But be blew it 10 days before the election by assailing bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet for advocating wage restraint, then rowing back and waving a letter from Mr. Trichet on television praising his support for the Franc even as the French currency slumped because of his comments.

Opinion surveys showed the dispute, skilfully exploited by Mr. Balladur and his followers, frightened small savers and some businessmen, who switched to the less volatile prime minister. At the same time, Mr.

Chirac's left-of-centre call



Jacques Chirac

for a more energetic assault on nnemployment and poverty, and his pro-European message, drove some rightist voters into the arms of extreme-right lead-er Jean-Marie le Pen. After a series of brilliant-

ly choreographed speeches. including an impressive youth rally in Paris, the frontrunner appeared to mark time, trying to say as bittle as possible and avoid hlunders.

Voters began to see his ideas as hollow one-line slogans rather than policies. Among the sound-bites were "politics is the art of making the necessary possible," "too much tax kills taxation," and "the pay packet is not the enemy of

employment." Placed on the fast track to high office by president Charles de Gaulle and his prime minister, Georges Pompidou, in the 1960s,

Mr. Chirac has long been a man in a hurry, blundering into action sometimes before measuring the con-

In 1974, be led a revolt against official Gaullist Jacques Chaban-Delmas in favour of centre-right candidate Valery Giscard d'Estaing who rewarded him with the premiership when he won.

Then in 1976, Mr. Chirac rebelled against the man be had helped to the presidency, resigning after accusing Giscard d'Estaing of refusing to let him govern and defying the president to win election as Paris mayor the

following year.

Mr. Chirac denounced Giscard d'Estaing's followers as "the foreign party" and stood against him in the 1981 election. His balfbearted endorsement contributed to the incumbent's

PNA accuses Israel of torture

(Continued from page 1)

interrogation.

"He died from torture and beatings by Israeli Shin Beth men," the ministry said, call-ing for the immediate release of all ailing Palestinian pris-

Harizat was arrested Saturday in Hebron and taken to Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital in a coma on Monday. An autopsy was to be carried out at the family's request.

"The use of the harsbest forms of torture against Palestinian suspects is a grave violation of human ric regulations related to political prisoners," the statement

"It constitutes a dangerous escalation in dealing with Palestinian prisoners who bave been subjected to the worst Israeli policy in years." Under 1987 rules, Israeli

interrogators were allowed to use "moderate physical pressure" on suspects. Nine months ago Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin relaxed those rules in cases where the Shin Beth feared an attack was

The army spokesman bas remained silent on how 30year-old Harizat, a computer programmer, sustained the

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- Abu Al - Zulof For Bathroom Accessories

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FORTE GRAND

facility, the treasury said.

letters, the treasury added.

international debt markets since then.

Turkey signs deal for

\$500 million loan facility

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and 18 Western and Turkish banks signed an accord Wednesday for a \$500 million found

March 1994 consists of a \$245 million syndicated loan and a \$255 million floating rate note (FRN) issue, the treasury

Turkey, hit by a financial crisis and successive downgrad.

ings in its credit rating earlier last year, has been out of

But treasury officials are planning to borrow around \$2

billion this year and say Wednesday's deal will pave the way for another borrowing later this year probably at a lower

The signing was completed by an exchange of faxed -

The syndicated loan and the note issue carry an interest of six-month LIBOR plus 175 basis points. Turkey also pays a relatively high fee of 345 basis points.

The country's first international borrowing deal since

siness

.

1.139

ILO warns social security systems could collapse

GENEVA (R) - Government welfare and social security systems could collapse if older workers went on being pressed to retire early to create jbbs for the young unemployed, the International Labour Organisa-

tion (ILO) said Wednesday. But the U.N. agency warned that switching to private pension schemes, which also involve high administra-

tive costs and rely on government tax concessions, provided no panacea.

In its World Labour Report 1995, ILO called for a flexible retirement age, arguing that early retirement buyouts in Western countries had failed to reduce unemployment significantly.

Public pension expenditure, already the largest single item in the public hudget in most industrialised countries. will be even more costly as people retire earlier and bve

By the year 2025, about 14 per cent of world population will be aged 60 years or over, according to ILO. In western Europe, 26 per cent of the population will fall into the category concerning their abilities," the ILO report of Dutch men employed between the ages of 60 and 64 has fallen by 77 per cent since 1960 to just 18 per cent. Similar drops were posted over the same time period among men in Austria (81 per cent) and in France (74

per cent).

labour force before reaching 64 still working, face less of retirement age.

About 75.6 per cent - or three in four - Japanese men that age still work. This is due to low employment, retirees being rehired by companies and a large number of family-owned firms.

Canada and the United However, in Japan and States, which have rates of Sweden, older men bave not 47.6 per cent and 54.9 per States, which have rates of dropped out of the active cent of men between 60 and

an unemployment problem than western Europe. Costly buyouts and disability pensions are used less often, as

ILO said incentives for early retirement should be removed and full pension rights hased on the number of years of contribution instead of the worker's age, to allow flex-

Bundesbank criticises IMF lending policies

consultant's paper on trans-It said private investors may wait until "the region reminder that much of the

becomes more secure" with a history of political

that the region could bave the world's slowest per capita growth in the next decade, prompted a reminder from U.S. investment bank Salomon Brothers that investors might find more attractive places than the inhospitable valley be-

"The economics of infrastructure finance projects are usually uncertain, particularly if the projects are undertaken in a developing region such as the Jordan rift valley," its pre-

With grumhling about unfulfilled expectations rising, Crown Prince Hassan told the conference that even if plans proceed, nothing will be completed for

at least 18 months.

My interest is basically to provide jobs. My interest is to provide parti-cipation opportunities for thousands of people who are looking to the return of the peace process," be said. "We are not talking bere solely about busi-

report coinciding with this week's meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, was sharply critical Wednesday of

the fund's lending policies. The Bundesbank's 1994 annual report said the IMF was not adequately monitoring the economic performance of the countries to which it extended credits.

. It also said a strong rise in IMF lending was not in line with its role of belping countries overcome sbort-term balance of payments problems. It repeated its rejection of a general increase in the IMF's own funding.

said persistently high unemployment was the main economic challenge in Germany. It also called on European countries to step up efforts to

ary union and said the failure of some countries to tackle their budget problems was at the root of recent currency turbulence.

Referring to the IMF, the Bundesbank said the fund should stick to monitoring members' economie policies, advising them and providing finance for temporary payments problems.

"The strongly expanded financial involvement of the IMF in the form of long-term adjustment programmes dis-tinctly aimed at growth is hard to bring into accord with this understanding of its role," the Bundesbank said.

The Bundesbank conceded the IMF was trying to improve its economic surveillance and advice, but picked out Mexico's recent economie crisis as an example

wrong.
"The most recent currency crisis in Mexico is an indication of inadequacies in the economic surveillance of member countries by the IMF." it said.

As the IMF meeting was getting underway in Washington, Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer underscored this position Tuesday, saying Mexican events illustrated the need for more effective economic

early warning system.

Germany had strong servations about a \$17.8 billion IMF loan to Mexico, part of an international rescue package, and the report repeated Bundesbank objections to special IMF facilities aimed at coping with sudden

FRANKFURT (R) — The meet Maastricht treaty where things had gone loans to counter sudden German Bundesbank, in a criteria for European monet-wrong. threaten financial market stability by undermining the discipline of market participants.

Borrowers and lenders would check their international credit business less rigorously if they expected the IMF to give substantial and quick support whenever a debtor country encountered sudden problems, it added.

German objections to the Mexico package and to a bid by IMF management to increase its own funds have drawn beavy criticism from United States, main architect of the Mexico deal.

The report also underscored Bundesbank opposition to a bid by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus to increase the organisa-Introducing new ways for tion's own funding, come the IMF to provide quick the move unnecessary. tion's own funding, calling

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 27, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

HOROSCOPE

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get out early today and handle your affairs constructively since much can be accomplished. Handle emergencies within your residence tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever your aims may be about gaining a greater abundance today, you are able to progress at such easier tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You find many ways of gaining personal aims which mean a good deal today to you now. Take time to improve your health and appearance.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get together with experts today and decide upon a new course which can bring you greater

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Contact your most brilliant frieads today and together go after the pursuits which most activate you. Be sociable during your spare time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Making a good impression on higher-ups with your ability is wise today. Get your credit and public

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Contact those who can further your ambitions today and ideas and get fine results. Intuitive capabilities do not work well tonight.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can be very ingenious at business affairs today so handle them as they arise. Take time to please your loved one tonight. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Fast-thinking

persons are about today who can give you right answers to any enigmas you may have.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are very good at organisation and this is a particularly fine day today for such, Handle important business matters. AOUARIUS: (Jamary 21 to February 19) Go out for the pleasure

which is very much on your mind today and dress nicely so you feel PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get all those duries, both big and small, well-handled at your home today so that everything will

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 28, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have to use much tact in dealing with others today and care in motion of all kind. Make social contacts with close associates tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't be too hasty in coming to decisions where finances are concerned, otherwise you can make costly errors today. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't make changes at home today

without first getting the approval of kin, and get it by the use of MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may have inner conflict which could foolishly cause you to spoil present set-up, so calm yourself and be poised.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid that friend who could be upsetting to you today and you save the relationship. Plan what you

truly want in the days ahead. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It is important you handle outside affairs today in a well-regulated manner, even though you are thinking of making big changes.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are thinking of taking a little trip to gain the benefits which are slow in coming in, but be patient a little longer.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You feel that someone is trying to take advantage of you, today but be sure before you try to retaliate in any way.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It may be that an associate is acting in a flighty and irresponsible manner today, but this will soon change, so be patient. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You feel that you ma

have taken on more tasks than you can handle, but it will work systematically today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may be in a bad mood and don't want to work, so go out for some amusement which is not PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The situation at home may be difficult, but do nothing which can make it more so. Establish

greater harmony today Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

Cementing Jordan-Israel peace — who will pay?

tween Jordan and Israel, seen as a practical and symbolic cementing of their peace treaty, leave nnanswered the question of who will pay the multibillion-dollar bill. A three-day meeting which ended Wednesday,

AMMAN (R) — Plans to develop the rift valley be-

TO SEE THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

designed to prepare proposals for a larger conference in six months, produced conflicting ideas of financing alongside the sweeping plans for canals, dams and desalination

A diplomat, predicting a mixture of "innovative" private funding and public money, said bluntly of the source of funds: "Nobody

Israeli Foreign Minister Sbimon Peres told a news conference the vast amounts would come solely from private investors.

"I think an early estimate (of the cost) was \$25 billion," Mr. Peres said, citing a figure far above even Jordan's ambitious bopes. "We feel that banks, insurance companies, corporations, will make consortiums to invest."

"The idea is that the private companies will invest and the respective governments will guarantee," be

In a world where governments are increasingly tight-fisted, private funding sounds appealing.

The U.S. government, an enthusiast backer of the scheme and the sponsor of the Amman meeting, is unlikely to ask a bostile U.S. Congress for more foreign aid when members want to cut existing programmes. But it is unclear what

enthusiasm exists among private investors for pntting money into Jordanian infrastructure like bighways and railways, or bow much risk foreign governments want to assume by guaranteeing debts owed to their companies.

Certainly some presentations at the meeting raised

doubts.
"It is important to the success of the rift valley programme that public funding sources are dedicated to the programme over the long term," said a

portation. Middle East remains poor,

That legacy, coupled with World Bank forecasts

tween Jordan and Israel. sentation said.

The scheme, including a canal to bring Red Sea water to the Dead Sea that most diplomats privately doubt is realistic, is to show Jordanians the benefits of ending their 46-year struggle with Israel.

The prince, a chief promoter of the scheme, listed social rather than economic priorities when addressing the businessmen who are looking for financial seasons to undertake projects.

The central bank report

Dollar stages mild rally

despite G-7 doubts LONDON (R) - The dollar Krupp who said there was no staged a mild recovery Wednesday in cautious reac-tion to the Group of Seven industrial nation's verbal support for the currency, which bas fallen 20 per cent against

the yen this year. But market analysts said the rally could be short-lived and were disappointed by the failure of the Group of Seven (G-7) meeting Tuesday to offer concrete remedies to

cure recent turbulence. By late morning, the dollar had strengthened to 1.3829 marks and 83.33 yen from 1;3707 marks and 82.03 in late European dealings

The dollar's spurt came as buying by U.S. funds and belped reinforce a growing view that it may bave found a hase against the yen and the

mark, dealers said. The dollar's performance suggests that it is looking for a base," said Stuart Thomson, chief economist at Nikko Europe in London. "It's likely to be sbort-term but there is clearly more of a two-way

market now." The new-found strength was belped by remarks from German Bundesbank council member Hans-Juergen

reason to rule out speculation

about a cut in interest rates. At a Hamburg news conference, Mr. Krupp, who has regularly called for lower interest rates, also said Germany's current discount rate at four per cent was "not particularly low."

The economic policymakers declared in Washington that the dollar's rapid decline was unjustified and called for an "orderly reversal" of recent trends. The finance ministers and central bank governors agreed to take longer-term steps, including re-ducing budget deficits and

trade imbalances. Traders remained wary of the potential for central bank intervention to support the

As currency markets took stock of the Washington meeting, the initial reaction of economists was that its communique bad offered little to help the dollar and traders would be unimpressed for the long term.

"The market is trying to gauge where the dollar is going from bere," said Brian Martin, chief economist of the foreign exchange division at BZW in London.

Russian debt to be \$130b by end of '95

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's foreign debts, in-cluding loans inherited from the former Soviet Union, will be around \$130 billion by the end of 1995, Interfax News Agency Wednesday quoted Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov as saying.

Mr. Panskov, speaking to the agency during the spring meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, said debt rescheduling was essential for Russia but gave no details of the terms Moscow

boped to win from creditors.
"We want payments on our debts to be even and interest rates to fall," Mr. Panskov said. "I think this is realis-

Russian officials put total external debt currently at around \$120 billion, up from \$113 billion at the start of

Russia bas already won a series of rescheduling deals with the Paris Club of creditor states and is currently seeking a longer-term agreement to give it extra time to

"Our task is to make sure that debt rescheduling has a long-term perspective and the Russian government tors.

knows the shape of future debt repayments," Mr. Panskov said. "This is essential for a competent drafting of the budget and economic

forecasts. Mr. Panskov said be hoped interest payments could fall after a Paris Club deal was reached.

"I can only say that if in May we sign a debt rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club, then interest rates on debts will fall by 60 per

cent or more." Mr. Panskov said be plan-ned to hold bilateral talks with German Finance Minister Theo Waigel during the Washington meeting. Germany is Russia's biggest fore-

ign creditor. Meanwhile, Russia's foreign minister has encouraged U.S. bankers to accelerate partnerships with Russian companies and boost investment in them.

Andrei Kozyrev told a group of bankers in New York that while barriers to Western-style commerce, such as wide-spread corruption and crime, are a problem in Russia, many opportunities exist for foreign inves-

Peanuts





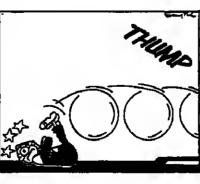


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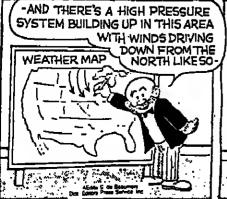


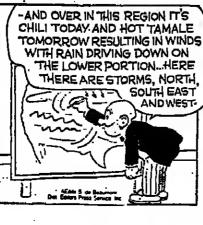


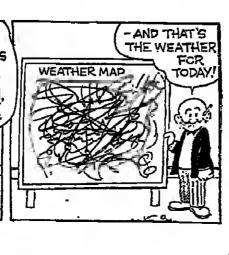




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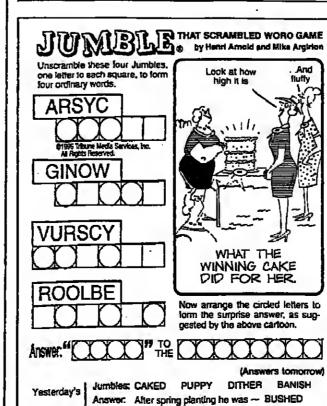


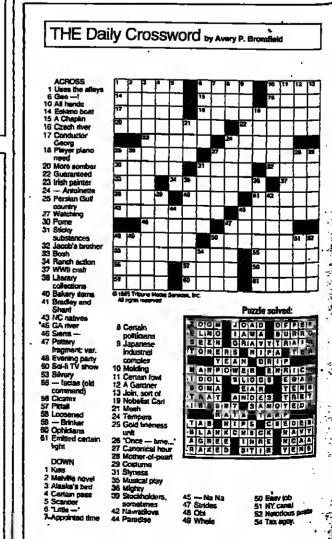




THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen

"They say it's what's inside a person that really matters. If that's the part that matters, why isn't it on the outside?"





A review

Taxation

discussion

THE MINISTRY of Fi-

nance has floated the follow-

ing ideas to be discussed with

both the private and public

with reforms to the tax and

investment laws on condition

that the net result on govern-

ment revenues remains neut-

1. Differentiating between in-

come tax on individuals and

2. Levying a 15 per cent

income tax on companies benefitting from the Law of

Encouraging Investments

while having the rate of 25

per cent for other companies.

Another 15 per cent tax will

be taken from the dividends

before distribution to share-

3. Levying 15 per cent in-

come on the net profit generated by branches of Jorda-

nian companies and Jorda-

man individuals working out-

side the Kingdom regardless

of the tax they pay in the

country where they operate/

4. Doubling of exemptions

for the spouse, children and

5.. Considering the husband

and the wife as two independent taxpayers having sepa-

6. Freedom to obtain banking

information on condition of

total confidentiality instead

of not being able to have any access to the information afor

Replacing the 10 income

tex categories by only six with

the percentages being 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35. The first

five categories will have a JD

every two stages. Incomes beyond JD 20,000 a year will

be taxed at a rate 35 per cent;

8. Raising the sales tax to 10

per cent instead of seven per

9. Amending the tax on im-

ported cigarettes from 100 fils

10. Include the following ser-

vices in the sales tax lists:

Engineering offices, decor

art, suditing, consultancy,

translation, advertising and

nightclubs (Al Dustour).

** THE JORDAN Chemic

al Industries Company will

distribute dividendse for the

year 1994 at a rate of 25 per

ceot. The company's net

earnings from sales last year

amounted to JD 2.14 million

which, after accounting for

production costs and other

expenses, shrunk to a JD

444,563 net profit (Al Ra'i).

** STATISTICS FROM

the Jordanian Contractors

Association shows that the

miversity payments;

holders and partners;

on companies;

reforms

put for

of economic news

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as by a financial crisis and successive dong a flette markets since then. at debt markets since then.

ary officials are planning to borrow and say Wednesday's deal will pave to borrowing later this year probably at at

was completed by an exchange of IBOR plus 175 basis points. Turkey also

HOROSCOPE

AST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 27, 198 Pleason Astrologer Carroll Righter Found a 21 as April 19: Get out early today and hands street much can be accomplished by street residence tonight sectors in order to come up

and 20 to May 20) Whatever your ams may be an apprendence logal, for me apic to holicals and post apprendence logal, for more and animal post and apprendence for animal post and apprendence for animal post and apprendence for animal post ani

in 21 to June 21) You find many ways of a selection mean a grood deal today to you now, Take Market 13 lo July 231 Get logether with the ings rebent is these printed septice can puttle for the

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my Crossward waren's grant work volume of the construction sector last year amounted to JD 258 million, including JD 151 million in contracts given to seven foreign contractors. Foreign contractors are mainly involved in the Karameh Dam and King Abdulah Hospital pro-jects for ID 100 million, According to the statistics, building construction took the lion's share of JD 110 million, water and sewage work accounted for JD 80 million and JD 21 million for roads. Bank credits to the construction sector totalled

> THE MINISTRY of Public Works and Housing will float a tender next month to implement the 72kilometre Rus Al Naqab-Aqaba Road to fully com-Pleie the connection between Agaba; and the Jordanian-Iraqi border with a road pasthrough Maan. Al Jafr as prequalified 35 local. Al Azraq. The ministry Arab and foreign companies b bid for the project which is expected to be finished in hree years (Al Raii).

JD 670 million as of Aug. 31

1994 compared to JD 514 million in 1993 (Al Aswaq).

No U.S.-Jordan negotiations yet on free trade agreement

By P.V.Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan and the United States agree in principle to seek a free trade agreement between them, but actual negotiations on the accord could start only after

the Kingdom goes through the process of amending some key legislation and finalises its accession to international trade conventions. highly informed sources said Wednesday, The sources, who prefer-

red anonymity, were commenting on reports appearing m the local press that Jordanian and American officials were already engaged in negotiations on a free trade agreement and that the Jordanian market could soon be flooded with American products.

"One report even suggested that Jordan will allow duty-free status of American cars in return for the U.S. granting a similar treatment to Jordanian exports," said

one source. There is no basic logic to source. "The imbalance in trade between Jordan and the U.S. is so vast that there cannot be such preferential treatment."

The source noted that Jordanian exports to the U.S. were worth "just a few mil-lion dollars," and the Kingdom's imports of American products were more than \$300 million. "In such a situation, what logic is there to suggest that there could be open free trade between the two sides?"

The idea of a free-trade accord between Jordan and the U.S. was raised during the visits here last year and again this year of American Commerce Secretary Ron

There is an agreement in principle that the two countries should work on signing a free trade accord, but it is a long way abead," said another source. "Jordan has to change some of its key laws as well as restructure its approach to international trade before the U.S. would seriously consider an agree-

The sources said Jordan has to start the process of negotiating a free-trade accord with the U.S. by introducing major changes to its copyright and intellectual

property rights. Then the process would involve Jordan finalising its entry to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) or GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs), and then Jordan can seek to start negotiations with the U.S.," said another source.

Jordan -does have a relatively strong law on copyright and intellectual property rights, but, international experts say, there are key gaps in the legislation that are incompatible with most international conventions.

Copyrights and intellectual property rights are very important for the United States, just as they are for the European countries," said the source.

"The very essence of changing the law is that the government is fully committing itself to upbolding those

Lebanese liras (\$11.6 million)

loan from the central bank to

assist the takeover. Interest

on the eight-year loan is set at

60 per cent of the interest

rate on 12-month treasury

Under the agreement signed on April 8, BBC will

take responsibility for Secur-

ity Bank's debts totalling \$6.9

million, the agreement states.

The merger is the first

under a law passed in 1993 to

facilitate and encourage mer-

gers among Lebanon's 80

banks, some of which are too

small to be effective in the

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nificance in terms of the political will to free trade," according to the source.

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In the realm of international free trade conventions, Jordan sought first to enter GATT, but then, under expert opinion, decided to apply to join the more advanced and broader WTO, which will replace GATT by 1997.

But no firm steps have been taken to advance the Jordanian application, but Singapore, which chairs the GATT/WTO committee in charge of negotiating the Kingdom's accession, has offered to accelerate the process. This would mean Jordan becoming a member of WTO sometime in 1997.

The U.S. is a prime mover behind the WTO, and is unlikely to agree to enter into negotiations on a free trade accord with Jordan until the Kingdom joins the conventions, the sources said.

As such, said the sources. there is no negotiation between Jordan and the U.S. in this regard.

The agreement will be

finalised in June," Mr. Nimer

said. "However we consider

the initial agreement to be final since 90 per cent of the Security Bank shareholders

A joint meeting of share-

bolders will ratify the accord

in June after the central bank

accepts andits of the two

banks now being prepared by

BBC, which has 15 bran-

ches and 338 employees, is

planning to increase its

nominal capital, currently at

eight billion Lebanese firas

(\$5 million), Mr. Nimer said.

JORDAN MARKET

agreed to the merger."

acconntants.

Lebanese banks sign trailblazing merger

BEIRUT (R) - One Lebanese bank will take over another in the first deal under a new law designed to encourage bank mergers, the chairman of one of them said

Banque Beyrouth pour le Commerce (BBC) will take over Security Bank of Lebanon, previously owned by the Bank of Credit and Com-

Tuesday,

merce International (BCCI). BBC's Jordanian Chairman Rifaat El Nimer told Ren-

BCCI collapsed in July

1991 amid one of the biggest bank frauds in history but Security Bank has carried on trading and currently has four branches and 82 employees. The agreement states that

BBC will receive a 19 billion Jordan Times

Financial Cziro Amman Bank



Corrency	New YORK Close Chargs/4/95	Close
Sterling Pound	17.6123	1.6759**
Deutsche Mark	1.5720	1.3698
Swits Franç	1,1314	1.1302**
French Franc	4.8360	4,4360**
Inpunese Ven	42.10	11.73
European Curreny Unit	27.97 \$ 44.4.65	7:3370

Carrency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTH
U.S. Downe	5.21	5.93	6.06	6.25
Sterling Pound	6.31	6.62	6.93	7.57
Deutsche Mark	4,37	4.31	4.43	4.68
Swise Franc	3.18	3.25	3.51	3.43
French Franc	7.68	7.54	7.18	6-81
Гаралия Үев	1.25	1,25	1.25	1.25
European Currency Unit	6.72	6.25	6.30	6.56

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Metal	USDPOz	ID/G=	Metal	€SPAGE?	JD/G=
Gotal	389.75	7:60	Siver	5.68	0.732

	20/4/1999			
Currency	Bid	Offer		
U.S. Detter	0.6150	0.6270		
Sterling Pound	7.1065	1.1120		
Doutsche Mark	0.5001	0.5016		
Swint Franc	0.6052	0.4012		
French Franc	0.1419	9-1426		
Japanese Yen*	0.8330	0.4372		
Dutch Guilder	0.4468	0.4433		
Swedish Kroos	******	7444744		
Italian Lire*	0.0405	0.0407		
Belgian Franc	4-4444	*****		

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Carrency	1866	Offer	
Bekrain Ditter	1,8000	1.8180	
Lebtone Lira*	0.041090	0.042101	
Saudi Riyai	0.1924	0.1131	
Kuwajii Dime	2.3160	2.3410	
Qetari Riyal	0.1869	9-1221	
Egypting Petrad	9.1900	0.2010	
Omnet Rivel	1.7700	7.7830	
UAE Dirham	0.1857	0.1869	
Greek Drackma*	0.2950	0.3250	
Cypriot Pound	1.4585	1.5600	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and

7.3775/75

6.2320/70

5.4320/70

bullion markets Wednesday. 1.3824/34 1.5482/92 1.1430/40 28.45/49 4.8700/50 1711.8/6.8 83.38/48

Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen

One sterling \$1,6074/84 One ounce of gold \$389.65/390.05 Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

Canadian dollar

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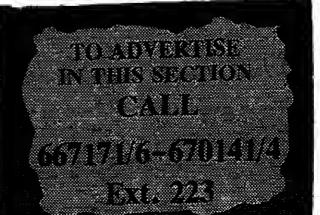


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WIMBLEDON (AP) — With nearly \$10 million in prize money on offer this year. Wimhledon's top official says the players are worth
"every penny" — even if the
tennis can be boring.
The All England Club
annouoced Tuesday that

prize money for this summer's championships will total a record £6 million. equivalent to \$9.6 millioo at current exchange rates.

The figure in sterling represeots a six per cent increase — double the rate of inflation - over last year's purse of £5.68 million. Because of currency fluctuations, the dollar. figure has gone up 13 per cent on last year's total of \$8.52

The men's champion will receive £365,000 (\$584,000). If Pete Sampras retains his title, he will get \$67,000 more than last year.

The women's champion will take home £328,000 (\$524,000), compared with the £310,000 (\$465,000)

qualifications:

TENTED THE LETTER OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE CONTROL OF THE RESERVENCE OF THE CONTROL OF T

check Conchita Martinez received for winning the 1994

Total prize money for men will be £3.2 million (\$5.1 million) and £2.5 million (\$4 million) for women.

Wimhledon, like the French Open, offers more money to the men than the women. The two other Grand Slam tournaments, the Australian and U.S. Opens, offer equal prize

"We look at that every year and we make a conscious decision" to maintain different prizes, All England Cinb Chairman John Curry

Curry rejected suggestions that prize money was spiral-

ing out of control.
"A lot of people have that view, hot I don't," he said. "I believe that the top players are worth every penny. Think of how much top husinessmen are paid and how much pop stars receive. At Wimbledon the players are the

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best in the world and they deserve the best from us."

The increase is a function of competitive pressures and the attraction of the game," he said. "It's what you can afford to pay. But the most important factor is to ensure that Wimhledon's premier positioo is maiotaioed."

Curry acknowledged that many people find the tennis at Wimhledon to be tedious, with few rallies or subtle sbots on the fast grass courts. In last year's final, Sampras beat Goran Ivanisevic 7-6. 7-6, 6-0 in a slam-bam match

dominated hy big serves.
"Yes, some of the tennis was boring," Curry acknow-ledged. "The final was not the greatest for the man in the street. But if you are an afficionado of tennis, it was exciting:

This year's tournament will be held from June 26 to July

Meanwhile, Wimbledon's new No. 1 court is beginning to take shape in Aorangi Park, adjacent to Centre Court. The court is scheduled to be ready for use in 1997, while two new outside courts should be finished by 1998.

The area has been turned into a massive construction site, with workers putting up temporary tents for food villages, sbops and concession stands. Two huge cranes will still tower over the grounds when faos arrive this summer.

"It may not look as attractive hut it will be business as usual," Curry said.
"Although there will be some

WITH OMAR SHARE

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

hold: \$99852 TK103 CKJ10 \$AQ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 \$Pass 2 \$Pass
2 NT Pass 3 \$Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—If you think that three spades is simply a correction, indicating a dislike for no trump, take another look at your bidding primer. Although there is a known eight-card fit in the major, we would opt for three no trump because half our strength is in the unbid suits.

Q.2—East west South you hold: 2Void \(\times AQJ7632 \) \(\times AJ93 \) 485

avoid "AQJ7002"
The hidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 ∇
Pass 1 4 Pass 7
What do you bid now?
A.—Partner'a response has done
nothing to improve your hand—if
anything, prospects are bleaker
anything, prospects are bleaker

anything, prospects are bleaker now. We feel that a jump to three hearts adequately expresses the val-ue of this holding. We don't think

South you hold: 425 ∵AQJ7632 >AJ93 4Void

A.—Almost the same hand as be-fore, except that your black-suit holdings have been reversed. But

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evidence of development work, the 1995 chamwork at the event." pionships will proceed in the

The next stage will be expansion of the Centre Court and construction of a new any inconvenience is kept to facilities building, expected the absolute minimum for to be completed by 2000.

Wimbledon prize money

Men's Singles

Winner: \$584,000 Runner-up: \$292,000 Semifinalists: \$146,000 Ouarterfinalists: \$75,920 Round of 16 losers: \$40,880 Round of 32 losers: \$23,648 Round of 64 losers: \$14,304 First round losers: \$8,760

oormal way. Every effort is

being made to ensure that

Women's singles

Winner: \$524,800 Runner-up: \$262,400 Semifinalists: \$124,800 Quarterfinalists: \$64,320 Round of 16 losers: \$33,856 Round of 32 losers: \$18,288 Round of 64 losers: \$11,088 First round losers: \$6,800

14-year-old suspended for steroids

JOHANNESBURG (R) -A 14-year-old South African girl has been suspended from competitioo by Athletics South Africa (ASA) for the use of banned substances.

The girl, whose name was not released on Sunday when the test results became known, provided the positive urine sample at the National Junior Championships in Germiston between April 7-8 and now faces a four-year han.

A potentially lethal cock-tail of hanned substances was found - the anabolic steroid nandrolone and the stimulant fencamfamine.

Nandrolone is the substance found in American sprinter Bntch Reynold's urine sample five years ago which resulted in a twovear han.

Brazil, Argentina in soccer final

DOHA (Agencies) - Brazil grahbed a dramatic injury time winner to defeat Portugal 1-0 in the semifinal of the World Youth Championship bere Tuesday. Half-time score was 0-0.

In the other semifinal, Argentina eliminated Spain 3-0 with goals from Biagini (22), Coyette (54) and Chaрагто 81.

Sao Paulo striker Caio

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

\$\phi 3 \times \text{AKJ105} \times \text{4KQJ9}\$
The hidding has proceeded:
South West North East

1 \times \text{Pase} \text{Pase} 1 \times 1

What action do you take?

A.—Even though partner has next to nothing, the fact that almost all your high cards are concentrated in the long suits gives you great playing strength. That is sufficient reason to abow your second suit. Bid

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

•K42 °K7 'J10652 •K72 Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—If you play limit raises in the minor suits, this hand, albeit minimum, just qualifies. If not, you must choose between the slight underbids of one no trump and two diamonds. Since a raise, perticularly of a minor, is the more encouraging, we would opt for two diamonds.

♦AQJ48 97 AK865 ♦A4

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

action do you take?

A.—If you use a cue-bid of the anemy suit as a two-suited takeout, by all means bid two hearts. If not, and even though we have consistently warned against making a takeout double on a two-suiter, we would double now. This hand is aimly too strong for an exercise.

scored the winner Brazil io the fourth minute of time added on hy referee Pascual Rebolledo of Mexico. But the match ended in controversy as Portugal had

two players seot off. At the final whistle, Rebolledo needed a police escort form the pitch as he was surrounded by angry Portuguese players upset by the dismissals and the length of

injury time. However. Brazil deserved its victory, and will oow meet Argeotina in the final Friday. The Brazilians are seeking their fourth World Youth

Championship title.

Portugal only created one opening in the eotire game, in the secood half when Nuno Ribeiro had a header saved by Fabio.

Apart from that, the game was dominated by Brazil. Leonardo Hit the post with a 27th minnte free-kick while Portuguese goalkeeper Joaquim Quim pulled off fine saves to deoy Ze Elias, Glaucio and Marcelo.

Brazil also bad a goal disallowed in the opening minute of the second half when Luizao's shot was ruled out for offside

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Barkely seeks title before Suns set PHOENIX (AFP) - No-

thing less than a National Baskethall Association championship can satisfy Charles Barkley, who finds time running out on his hid to prove he helongs among the league's greatest players.
"If we don't win the cham-

pionship, it will be a very disappointing seasoo," said Barkely, whose Phoenix Suns open their best-of-five-round series against Portland here on Friday.

Barkley has struggled through disappointment in recent years, other than a golden moment at Barcelona in 1992 with the U.S. Olympic "Dream Team."

Last season, the Suns lost in the league quarter-finals after pushing eventual champion Houston to the maximum seven games. In 1993. Phoenix fell to Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls in the NBA finals.

The Suns have pumped money and commitment into building a winner this season, with Wayman Tisdale and Danny Manning signing oneyear deals for lesser salaries in hopes of pooling their ta-lent and taking a title.

three-point sharpshoote Dan Majerle said. "We'n sick of being close. We wan this thing. This is our chance

and everybody knows it."

Barkley pushed of thoughts of retirement due to: back pain and has had strong season, averaging 2 points and helping the Sun to a 59-23 record and the Pacific Division title.

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The Suns have averaged 116.6 poiots a game, second best in the league, despite losing Manning in February to a torn knee ligament Where the Suns have suf fered is defense, allowing 100 points a game, second-mos in the league.

"We have so much talent we can get hy on that alone most nights." Barkley said But if we want to wio the championship, we have to play well together and play defence. With us, it always comes down to defence.

The injury-hampered Suns have become healthy for the playoffs. A post-season key will be Kevin Johnson, who ... missed 35 games with in

				ioni los	dona
Final top ten NB.			Statist	icau rea	uers.
O'Neal, Orl. Olajawou, Hou. Robinson, S.A. Malone, Utah Mashbura, Dall. Ewing, N.Y. Barkley, Phoe. Richmond, Sac. Rice, Mia. Robinson, Mil.	G 79 72 81 82 89 79 68 82 82 86	ring FG 930 798 788 830 683 730 554 668 667 636	FT 455 406 656 516 447 420 379 375 312 397	PTs 2315 2005 2238 2187 1926 1886 1561 1867 1831 1755	AVG 29.3 27.8 27.6 26.7 24.1 23.9 23.8 22.8 22.3 21.9
	· Rebo	unding			
Roman, S.A. Mutombo, Den. O'Neal, Orl. Ewing, N.Y. Hill, Clev. Kemp, Sea. Robinson, S.A. Olajuwon, Hon. Malone, Utah Jones, Dall.	G 49 82 79 70 81 72 80	Off 274 319 328 157 269 318 234 172 156 329	Def 549 710 573 710 496 575 643 603 715 515	Tot 823 1029 901 867 765 893 877 775 871 844	AVG 16.8 12.5 11.4 11.0 10.9 10.8 10.8 10.6
	Ass	ists	•		
Stockhton, Utah Anderson, N.J. Hardaway, G.S. Strikcland, Port. Bogues, Char. Van Exel, LaL Johnson, S.A. Richardson, LAC Kidd, Dall.			G 82 72 62 64 78 80 80 80 79	No 1011 680 578 562 675 660 670 632 616 607	AVG 12.3 9.4 9.3 8.8 8.7 8.3 8.2 7.9 7.7

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professional sports history killed last seasoo, Major League Baseball returned on Tuesday. There were replacement umpires, but finally in the Florida night there were bigleague players and homers. doubles, some strong pitching and even a ninth-inning rally by the home team that fell just a bit short, as the Los

> defeat the Miami Marlins 8-7. Basehall owners and players still have oot reached a

Angeles Dodgers held on to

MIAMI (R) — Eight months after the longest strike in ment and the season is not guaranteed to be free of another strike. But the night belonged to balls and hats and green grass

Major League Baseball is back

and the 42,125 fans who turned out to see the first game since Aogust 12. Raul Mondesi hit a pair of two-run homers and doubled

and Ramon Martinez pitched six strong innings for the Dodgers, whose effusive manager, Tommy Lasorda was in mid-season form.

"He's a five-tools guy, he can do it all," Lasorda said of

Tel.: 675571

Mondesi.
"This guy could lead the league in hits. He could be the MVP in the near runner Lasorda gushed after just one And Mondesi wasn't far

behind Lasorda.

"I love Manny Mota, sau Moodesi, referring to the Dodgers' hitting instructor "He's worked with me for four years. He has instructed me to always go to night something good will: happen.'

Jeff Bridges & Tommy Lee Jones

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Baseball is back

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Active Monday and

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فتتاب سياري

San Marino: The race that killed Senna

The Tace Lieu.

The Dan Marinal Support of Ayrton Senna is not least here at Imola, and in particular at Tamburello.

The Point Share To be set to hamt the world of Dan Marino Grand Prix, the race sick of being close and everybody kins thing this thing close and everybody kins the past the post of the Senna, Brazil's triple world thoughts of past thantion and the idol of Damon Hill's convincit victory in Argentina demonstrated the advance his car be sentent.

Barkley has Senna, Brazil's triple world thoughts of relifered millions, crashed into a constrong season be crete wall after veering off points and the add at williams. strong season and millions, was after veering our points and he gere wall after veering our points and helping season are the Tamburello bend at 10 2 59.23 record growth in his Williams-pacific Division in Remail.

The Suns The cause of Senna's fatal

The cause of Senna's range of Senna's ra one points a secident, which came by in the learn hour Roland Ratzenber-Austria's Roland Ratzenber-Aus Manning Manning M Lorn knee k against a mystery to this get, remains a mystery to the get, remains a mystery to this get, re ered is defense, all

Donnes a game, see Arguably the greatest racing diver of all time, Senna's absence from the wurld We have so me we can get by on the constraints mights. Hank championship has been felt throughout the 1995 season a feeling which can only be magnified at the Enzo and Dino Ferrari circuit.

pies well logather a came: down to de-Michael Schumacher returns as the championship leader, but is bound to replay the images he saw at 2.18pm on Sunday May I, 1994.

The German's Benetton ar had been chasing the Wil-hams as it beaded towards ing ten B4 regular season statistical in the Tamburello bend, and Schumacher was a spectator as the tragedy unfolded be-

> Among its many effects on the world of motorsport, the crash triggered a wave of safety improvements to For-

over Schumacher's Benetton, although both cars use the same Renault V10 engine.

Hill had also been leading m Brazil before being caught out by a spin, while team-mate David Coulthard took second place behind Schnmacher

There is no shortage of motivation though for the other challengers — Ferrari, McLarren-Mercedes and

Ferrari know that a podium finish before their hnme fans is well within reach fullowing Jean Alesi's stirring second place in Buenos Aires, and Gerhard Berger's distant third in San

At Imola, they will arrive fully armed with a new-found confidence, plus a revised V12 engine capable of an extra 1,000 revs-per-minute. And clearly, if they are to win a race in 1995, as they finally did last season, Ferrari fans would dearly love it be

Victory for Berger would also be another salve in the recently declared war of words with Schumacher.

won here.

The Austrian was upset at corner in Argentina.

MONACO (Agencies) the decision to re-instate American Pete Sampras, who finished 1994 as world num-Schumacher and Coulthard at the Brazilian Grand Prix, ber one, was named player of after their disqualification for the year for the second time fuel irregularities had temhere at the ATP Tour porarily propelled Berger from third to first place.

"Berger should concentrate on racing instead of thinking about how he can

criticise me," said the Ger-

man. "If Berger showed the

talent he shows doing his own

PR he would have won many

"I never understood how

somebody could celebrate a

victory like that, one lap

down and winning after someone else has been dis-

Berger countered: "I was

declared the winner by the

FIA stewards, so I had every

reason to open the cham-

And referring to last year's race here, which Schumacher won, he added: "I cannot

understand how someone can

celebrate a victory by jump-

ing around when one of our colleagues has died."

McLaren will meanwhile

want to make an impact with

their non-secret weapon, un-

veiled for the first time this

season, Nigel Mansell. The Englishman's hips, which

proved too big for the nrigin-

al car, should now be a snug

Hakkinen made a hright start

to the season — finishing fourth in Brazil — but failed

to even negotiate the first

Finnish teammate Mike

fit in the new noe.

qualified."

Awards Gala. Sampras won 10 tournaments in 1994, including two grand slam events - the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

"It means a lot to me and I'll do everything I can to finish this year at number one," said Sampras, who lost his top spot to compatriot Andre Agassi after opting out of the Japan Open earlier this month to play on clay in Barcelona.

"I know it will be tough because it's Andre's goal too," he said.

Sampras had held the number one ranking since September 1993 and was ATP player of the year in

that year.

Dutch pair Jacco Eltingh and Paul Haarhuis, who won eight titles, took the dnuhles team of the year award and Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, currently ranked fourth in the world, was voted most improved player. Spain's Alberto Costa was

named best newcomer after taking a semi-finals berth in three tour events

Edberg falls in first round

A long-delayed start to his clay-court campaign proved to be a disaster Tuesday for 12th-seeded Stefan Edberg as he fell in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open.



Sampras named player of the year

Pete Sampras

The 29-year-nld Swede, 17th on the computer, fell 6-3, 6-1, tn Fabrice Santoro of France, the world number 45, who has never taken a set off of Edberg in two 1994

It was all over in 63 minutes, with an error prone Edberg far from sharp with his serve-and-volley game and making 36 unforced errors to just a handful for the Frenchman with nothing

The donble Wimhledon champion put in his worst career performance at the Monte Carlo Country Cluh,

med time nff to rechange his batteries. "I played a lot at where he was competing for the seventh time since 1986. the beginning of the year, then I got sick before Stutt-The three-time semi-finalist has spent the last three gart in February. weeks since leading hulders Sweden into the Davis Cup semi-finals, resting and

The time away was evidently not the best thing for his game.

"I've been working quite hard but everybody knows there's a difference practising playing a match," he said. "I had just an awful day. Everything went wrong

He explained he program-

have any rhythm and once you do that on clay, it isn't

Edberg now has time on his hands and must figure out how to get the tournament time that he needs with the

French Open starting on May For the first time in years, the Swede will play the Italian Open in Rome in three weeks and is dehating whether to seek wildcards for upcoming events including the BMW Open in Munich next week and possibly Ham-

burg from May 8. Joining Edberg as an upset victim was 11th seed and defending champion Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine.

The 20-year-old from Kiev claimed itlness had heen bothering him for several days. He even diagnosed "high hlood pressure," and said he thought about not even taking tn the court against Australian Richard Fromberg, who won through to the second round 6-2, 3-6,

Medvedev has had mixed fortunes on his favourite clay courts this spring — making the quarter-finals at Estoril earlier this month hut losing his first match in Barcelona

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"I played a lot in the States

and then the Davis Cup. I

needed a rest and you have to

start somewhere. I didn't

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1995 JSF Shield kicks off today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Kingdom's Premier League soccer teams begin the first of the season's official competitions when the form Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield kicks off Thursday. For the first time, the 12 participating teams have been divided into three groups and will play a knockout competition in the first round. Only the top team in each

group will qualify for the final round.

Titleholders Al Hussein play Al Ahli on the opening day at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid. Group 1 also includes newcomers Sahab and the recently concluded Amman Socre Championship surprise winners Al Jazirch.
1994 Premier League champs Al Wihdat also play the first of their matches against Al Qadissich at Amman's

Petra Stadium Thursday. Their Group 2 includes Al Baqua Meanwhile in Gronn 3 Al Faisali and Al Ramtha will dash on Sunday, while newcomers Al Jalii and Russeifa

meet Friday. The early clash of top teams like Al Faisali and Al will mean that there will undonnte surprise finalists in the second round which begins May 12. The inconsistent form which characterised most of the country's teams in last-week's Amman Champinoship will make it difficult to determine the winner of the 15th JSF Shield.

JSF Shield Record	
1981	Jazireh
. 1982	Wihdat
1983	Wihdat
1984	Amman
1985	Amman
1966	Jazirch
1967	Faisali
1988	Wihdat
1789	Ramtha
1990	Ramtha
1991	Faisali
1992	Faisali
1975	Ramtha
1994	Hussein

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Under the patronage of H.M. Queen Noor and in cooperation with the Cultural Foundation 3,14, Bergen, Norway, the Royal Norwegian Embassy proudly presents "ENCOUNTERS", a Norwegian Cultural Week to take place in Jordan May 2-7, 1995.

May 2nd, 8:00 p.m.

Program

May 3rd, 6:00 p.m.

May 4th, 5:00 p.m.

Reidun Horvei & Einar Moolsnes and the Jordanian oud player, Sakher Hattar At: Darat Al-Funun, Amman Tickets sold at the National Music Conservatory. Tel.: 687620 Official opening of an exhibition of Norwegian contemporary art (Open till May 25th).

Concert by Norwegian folk muscians,

At: Jordan National Gallery of Fine arts. Official opening of an exhibition of rugs designed by Norwegian textile designers and woven by the Bani Hamida weavers. At: Bani Hamida House.

And of an exhibition of embroidenes and jewellery on national costumes from Norway and Jordan; Norwegian folk music performance. At: Jordan River Designs showroom

9:00 p.m.

Norwegian evening at Romero Restaurant.

Tickets sold at Romero. Tel: 644227 Bus excursion to Umm-Oais (Gedara) Departure 3:30 p.m. Open air concert on the Roman Amphitheatre by the Norwegian opera singer, Carl Robert Henie and planist Peter Anthon

May 6th 8:00 p.m.

May 5th

Naess followed by Norwegian buffet dinner. Tickets sold at Romero. Tel: 644227 Norwegian gourmet dinner-dance at

Kan Zaman. Norwegian specialities prepared by Norwegian chefs. Folk music concert by Carl Robert Henie.

Tickets sold at Royal Norwegian Embassy 644932, Icelandic Consulate 698851, Danish Consulate 603703, Swedish Embassy 669177. For further details please cali 644932/3/4

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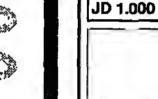
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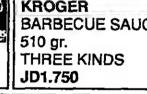
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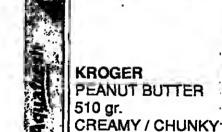
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AHLAN THEATE The political salif

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By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA), a government arm. on Wednesday announced it East, and we will actively was offering a \$500,000 grant to conduct a feasibility study on expanding the Agaba airport in the next two years to cater for a higher number of

The announcement was made at the conclusion of a three-day symposium on Jordan Rift Valley development attended by senior officials and husiness executives from the U.S., Israel and Jordan.

The development of the Agaba-Eilat airport corridor has emerged as the highest transportation priority to meet the anticipated increase in demand caused by additional tourism," said the final communique of the symposium. "Therefore, immediate steps should be taken to carry out the necessary feasibility assessments and prepare the project for investment."

 J. Grandmaison, director of TDA, said separately that his organisation was granting the \$500,000 aid for the preliminary study.

Both Israel and Jordan will benefit from the increased tourism and other economic benefits that the enhancement of the airport and its joint use will hring," said Mr. Grandmaison, the

NEWS IN BRIEF

RIYADH (AFP) - U.S. President Bill Clinton and King

Fahd discussed bllateral ties hy telephone after U.S. criticisms that Riyadh had foiled a U.S. plan to arrest a

suspected Lehanese terrorist. The official agency SPA said Wednesday that Mr. Clinton called King Fahd late Tnesday. The king had expressed his sorrow at last week's

Oklahoma bombing that killed at least 93 people. Secretary

of State Warren Christopher said earlier in the week he bad

been disappointed by Riyadh's refusal to let a plane land in the kingdom on April 7 where U.S. intelligence agents

were waiting to arrest a passenger suspected of being

behind several attacks. But he bad stressed the failed plan

would not affect the two countries defence ties, as Saudi

Arabia is a key ally of the United States in the Gulf region.

The two leaders conversation also followed criticism by

Washington that Riyadh had allowed a Libyan plane carrying pilgrims to land even though it bad taken off from

Editor of Israel's leading newspaper freed

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Police released Wednesday the

editor of Israel's biggest-selling newspaper after interrogat-

ing him for 48 hours in a telephone-tapping scandal

However, Moshe Vardi of the Yediot Aharonot, who is

suspected of bugging telephones at the rival Maariv

newspaper, bad to surrender his passport and agree to

remain available to answer any further questions, police

said. Maariv's editor and publisher Ofer Nimrodi was

remanded in custody for a week last Sunday on suspicion of

organising the tapping of telephones at the Yediot as well

as those of journalists at his own paper. Police moved in after a private investigator on Maariv's payroll, who was

awaiting trial on 39 charges of phone tapping, turned state

witness. He is one of six telephone tappers under arrest. Inquiries into widespread bugging in the media have been underway for a year as Maariv and Yediot fought a no-holds barred tabloid circulation war.

U.S. court rejects law on guns near schools

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Supreme Court struck

down a federal law Wednesday that bars gun possession near schools, ruling that Congress overstepped its authority

in enacting it. The court ruled 5-4 in a Texas case, saying

the 1990 Gun-Free School Zones Act banning guns within 330 metres of schools was outside congressional anthority

to regulate interstate commerce. The law "is a criminal

statute that by its terms has nothing to do with "commerce"

or any sort of economic enterprise, however hroadly one

might define those terms," Chief Justice Wilbam Rehn-

quist wrote for the court. President Bill Clinton's adminis-

tration had argued that firearms possession near schools may result in violent crime, which in turn barms the

national economy by making it difficult for schools to

Israelis protest visit by French cardinal

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Forty Israelis demonstrated Wednes-

day in Tel Aviv against French Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, a Jew who converted to Catholicism. Rabbi

Chaim Druckman led the group of religions nationalists waving Israeli flags outside Tel Aviv University where Mr.

Lustiger attended a symposium on the "Silence of God"

during the World War II genocide. "It is disgraceful for the

cardinal to be in Israel when we are commemorating the six

million Jews exterminated by the Nazis," said Mr. Druck-

man, a former far-right deputy who lives in the bardline West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba. "What about the

silence of Christianity during the Shoah," read one banner

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Six to 10 gunmen raided the offices of four news organisations in Mogadisha Tuesday, carrying off computers, walkie-talkie, establish sets, a generator, a camera and cash. They ordered the occupants

of the offices used by the local correspondents of AFP, the

BBC, AP and DPA, to lie on the floor, then went through

their pockets. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Faction leaders said they would try to track down the

Germany blames Kurds for property attacks

BONN (R) - German authorities blamed Kurdish extrem-

ists on Wednesday for a spate of firembomb attacks on

Turkish properties this year but said some were the work of

Somali gunmen rald news offices

carried by demonstrators.

Tripoli in violation of a U.N. air embargo.

Clinton and Fahd discuss ties

key organiser of the symposium under a mandate from President Bill Clinton.

"This grant also demonstrates that the TDA is open for business in the Middle pursue additional opportunities in support of President Bill Clinton's commitment to the peace process."

Expanding the Aqaba air-port to bigher international standards and modernising and increasing facilities available to passengers have been a key theme from the very outset of Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations that started in mid-1994.

But it was the first time that the issue was discussed in detail when participants in the Amman symposium heard international husiness executives with immense experience in aviation and ground services presented their viewpoints.

While no definite figures have been established, it is estimated that the project would entail up to \$200 million in fresh investments. Given the drain on the public resources of Jordan, private sector investment will have to be sought, particularly in view of the added emphasis that the Amman symposium hrought to free market eco-

nomy and liberalisation. One of the ideas floated was a "huild, own and operate" scheme under which the entire investment for the project will come from external sources and the local government will receive a sum to be negotiated.

Raytheon Engineers and Constructors, a U.S. multinational, presented a paper to the symposium outlining its experience in working on a similar project in Bangalore.

Mr. Grandmaison said there was no predetermined concept for the project. He said the TDA had iden-

tified a "fast-track" approach to the Aqaba project under which a selection process will begin next week for a U.S. contractor to conduct the study and one will be identi-Tred in two months.

The study will be presented to the Amman Economic Summit in October.

Joint use of the Aqaba airport, which now caters mainly to internal flights 10 Amman and a few flights to Egypt in addition to tourist charters, was underlined by Israeli Foreign Minister Sbimon Peres at the opening

session of the symposium.
Noting that Israel's Eilar airport on the Red Sea coast a few kilometres from Aqaba was not enough to meet the needs of tonrists coming to Israel, Mr. Peres said: "Instead of having a near miss over Agaba let us not miss the opportunity" for coop-

Deutch

pledges to

revive CIA

WASHINGTON (AFP)

- President Bill Clinton's

choice to head the Central

Intelligence Agency (CIA) vowed Wednesday to re-

vive the spy agency hy appointing fresh faces to

John Deutch, the depu-

ty secretary of defence,

also told a Senate con-

firmation hearing that be

would move quickly to re-

form the CIA, whose pre-

stige bas reached

basement-low levels over

the Aldrich Ames spy

changes are needed, and I

would anticipate taking

significant action im-

mediately upon confirma-

Mr. Deutch, 56, cited

among bis priorities con-

solidating various intelli-gence offices that collect,

analys and distribute satel-

lite photography, a key component of U.S.

If confirmed, Mr. Deutch, known as one of

the administration's most

influential voices on fore-

ign and defence policy, would replace James

Woolsey, who quit in early January following sharp

criticism of his handling of

espionage activities.

tion," he said.

its top posts.



NORTHERN BADIA: His Royal Highness northern badia region (see page one) (Petra Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday visits the photo)

Jordan and Tunisia seek to boost economic cooperation

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hamid Qarawi on Wednesday urged the private sectors and businessmen of Jordan and Tunisia to play a leading role in bolstering Tunisian-Jordanian relations and to participate in joint ventures.

Speaking on the second day of a meeting here of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee, Dr. Qarawi said economic cooperation between the two countries was still helow the desired level and does not reflect the actual potential. Economic reform and

democracy create the climate to promote economic activities and open new avenues for cooperation, be said. The joint committee meet-

ing, he said, offers the two sides a unique opportunity to evaluate their past cooperation and explore new avenues for relations and a forum for discussing topics of common

Prime Minister Sbarif Zeid Ben Shaker, who heads the Jordanian side to the meeting, said the committee was determined to enhance cooperation between Jordan and

mic, cultural information. tourism trade and scientific fields.

The two prime ministers voiced their countries' commitments to hack the Middle East peace process.

The two reviewed areas of mutual cooperation and a report hy a joint committee that prepared for the meet-

The two prime ministers are expected to sign a protocol on Thursday covering maritime transport, tourism and agriculture as well as

Iraq wants nothing less than total lifting of oil embargo

to launch a "diplomatic and

popular" drive to get the

Baghdad considers that the

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The spokesman said that the Iraqi leadership decided would accept nothing less than the complete lifting of U.N. sanctions after rejecting a deal to sell limited quantities in exchange for good and medicine.

The stand was agreed at a meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and Baath Party leadership, chaired by President Saddam

"Iraq accepts nothing less than the implementation by the U.N. Security Council of paragraph 22 of Resolution " an Iraqi spokesman

"I believe that it is time for a new generation of This paragraph provides leaders and managers at for the lifting of the oil the CIA and in the intelliembargo once the United Nagence community," Mr. tions are convinced that Deutch told the Senate In-Iraq's mass destruction telligence Committee.
"I believe that major

potential was dismantled. Baghdad says this condition bas been fulfilled already. But the U.N. Special Commission that has been supervising Iraq's disarma-ment since the 1991 Gulf war that freed Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation rejects the Iraqi asser-

restrictions imposed by U.N. Resolution 986, which called for strict monitoring of up to \$1 billion in oil states per quarter, was an attack on its

sanctions lifted.

sovereignty and could hinder the full lifting of sanctions. Russia and Iraq bave signed a broad oil and gas cooperation accord, which Baghdad bailed as a "stab" to Washington's efforts to tighten the economic and political

The official Iraqi News Agency said late Tuesday that the deal calls for creating a number of joint ventures, the expansion of oil and gas transportation networks and development of crude re-

The agency said the accord was signed in Baghdad by Russia's energy and fuel minister, Yuri Shafranik, and Iraqi Oil Minister Safa Hadi

After the signing cere-mony, Mr. Jawad told the

agency that detailed plans for implementing joint projects would be ready "in a few weeks.'

However, Russia's Itar-Tass news agency reported from Baghdad that the proiects would be implemented after the United Nations lifts the sweeping sanctions it imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

It said Russia would help develop Iraq's sonthern oil-fields of Kurna and Rumeila, which have a joint production capacity of 1million barrels a

The agreement culminated ranik's several-day visit to the Iraqi capital, and Mr. Jawad described it as "a great achievement... that will mark a stab to the U.S. ambitions for tightening the blockade on Iraq.

The accord could widen the rift among the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Russia, France and China have been in favour of easing the trade embargo, arguing that Baghdad bad complied with most of international resolu-

Hizbollah expects Israeli attack

SIDON (Agencies) — Hizbollah guerrillas hraced Wednesday for possible retaliation for a suicide car bombing that wounded at least 11 Israeli soldiers in Sonth Lebanon the day be-

The command of Hizbollah said its guerrillas have been put on maximum alert along on 80-kilometre front line abutting an Israeli-occupied horder enclave. Gunners were poised to rocket northern Israel should Lebanese civilians come under attack.

"All our Mujahedeen are hraced to rocket the enemy's northern settlements if our civilian population was subjected to vengeful attacks in the south," said a Hizbollah communique released in this southern port city.

The group's leader. Sbeikh Hassan Nasrallah, ordered the alert shortly after Tuesday's bomhing in which nearly 20 Leoanese civilians and one pro-Israeli militiaman, also were wounded.

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attack, mounted by a lone bomber who rammed a car rigged with 460 kilogrammes of explosives into an army convoy outside the Israeli "civil

administration" compound. The bomber perished in the afternoon explosion in Bint Jbeil, a town less than ten kilometres from the Israeli border.

The blast wrecked the sprawling compound used by Israeli officers to handle the day-to-day affairs of the 200,000 inhabitants of the occupied enclave, which Israel calls a "security zone."

A senior Israeli official said the bombing failed to kill Israeli soldiers because of strict security regulations.

Two Israeli soldiers were moderately wounded and nine lightly in the attack, the army said.
"Safety regulations for

suicide attacks were followed by the soldiers which explained why the operation did not kiil any one," said Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon. According to Israeli Radio the regulations include:

- A distance of 50 metres between military vehicles in

- All oncoming local Lebanese traffic must halt to let convoys pass, and following traffic must not overtake: - All Lebanese vebicles

must carry at least one passenger as well as a driver. Soldiers were under orders to open fire on drivers who do not obey the instructions

"If we follow the rules and the hombings fail, Hizbollah will stop planning snicide attacks," Mr. Lubrani said.

Payments have been held up

amid concern among some

donor countries over the au-

thority's budget deficit, esti-mated at \$132 million.

cated Wednesday that the

Americans had proposed un-

blocking \$60 million over

coming months, while the

PNA wants the full hudget

deficit figure to be paid out

nevertheless said some kind

of accord may well be ham-

mered out over the next few

days in Paris. Dr. Shaath said Wednes-

day an agreement was

needed in order to avoid con-

stant crises in the authority's

sis every two months. We are

ready to fulfil our commit-

ments. The United States and

Israel must do the same," be

The U.S. State Depart-

ment coordinator for Middle

East affairs, Denis Ross, is

heading the U.S. delegation

in Paris, while Israeli foreign

ministry director general Uri

Savir will lead the Israeli

team, accompanied by his fi-

nance ministry counterpart

foreign ministry spokesman

Danny Chek voiced optimism

that the Paris talks could

achieve a hreakthrough in

resolving the obstacles to in-

Earlier in the week Israeli

David Brodet.

ternational aid.

"We don't want a new cri-

One Palestinian official

immediately.

есопоту

Palestinian sources indi-

Ex-landowners iosa legal battle in claim on U.S. base

TOKYO (AP) - An 18.

year-long legal battle land ched by the former owners of

land made into a U.S. Air

Base ended Tuesday Japan's Supreme Court to jected their claim to the 2,000-bectare (4,940-acre) tract of land. A total of 121 former landowners sought in the suit the Japanese govern. ment's recognition of their ownership of the land and payment of 5 billion yen (360 million) in back rent. Japan's wartime Imperial Army built a military airfield on the land in 1994. The U.S. Air Force has used the land as Kadena Air Base under a mutual defence pact ever since Japan's defeat in World War II. In the suit, filed in 1977, the plaintiffs argued that they were forced to relinquish the land to the Imperial Army without due compensation. In the final ruling, the nation's highest court upheld lower courts' ruling that it . had to be a transaction under a legal contract. The courts, including the Naha District Court and the Naha branch : A 2 5 of the Fukuoka High Court, ... based their judgement on similar base-construction: cases during the war in the nearby island of Ishigaki and other islands in western Japan. During the trial, neither the former landowners nor the Japanese government could fully document their case because the papers were burned during the war.

One in two **Greeks** extend Easter holiday

ATHENS (AP) - One in two Atbenians Tuesday. apparently decided to extend the four-day Easter weekend hy another seven days to include the Labour Day boliday. Traffic police said less than balf of the nearly 500,000 cars that left the capital to celebrate Orthodox Christian Easter had returned. Nearly balf the city's population of four million leaves the capital every year to celebrate Easter Sunday in the countryside. According to media reports, more than one third of the civil servants . working in the central govleaves until the three-day May 1 Labour Day boliday. Employees taking four days from their annual leave during the middle of this week 32 de 345 an wind up with an 11-day vacation. Traffic on the capital's normally clogged streets was . sparse and Athens television and radio stations reported . that many public services. were nearly empty. Some, including the Finance Ministry, were reported operating with just over 50 per cent of their employees.

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Family feud over name ends in death

SHANGHAI (AFP) — A., peasant was beaten to death ... following the christening of his son in a village in north ern Shandong province where two feuding families when live, a newspaper reported 28,313 The Wenhm Daily reported that Liu Xiyuan, from Lin L village where two family: clans live, was celebrating the first full moon after his son's birth with a dinner for guestduring which he announces. the name of the child. The . full moon or the completion. of the first month is a very important occasion in the life of a Chinese and is celebrated with a dinner party and guests are required to bring gifts for the newborn who presented to the public 🙉 the first time.

Former world high jump champion jalled

HONG KONG (AP) former Chinese athlete set a world high jump record in 1970 has been sentenced. eight years in prison for ceiving bribes, a Ching news agency said Tuesday Zhiqin, 53, was convicted receiving 57,000 years (\$6,800) in bribes from leather company when it was deputy chief of the Fig. jian provincial sports com mittee in 1991, the office China News Service said N was sentenced by a court if Fuzhou in the south East coastal province of Fujian, t added. Ni held the high jumpy world record of 2.29 metres. (7 feet, 614 inches) for

Council of Europe votes to oust Turkey

- The parliamentary assemhly of the Council of Europe

the Ames affair. Congress charged that Mr. Woolsey should have reprimanded and sacked CIA managers for the spy fiasco in which Aldrich Ames, a lacklustre employee, was allowed to go months' time that Turkey bad undetected in selling secrets to Moscow for almost

10 years. Senator Arlen Specter, chairman of the committee and a Republican from Pennsylvania, praised Mr. Dentch's qualifications and suggested there would be no problem in confirm-

ing his appointment.
The CIA needs somebody who is strong at the top," be said, adding that he believed Mr. Deutch would "do what is necessary to put the agency on its feet.

Mr. Deutch, who was Mr. Clinton's first choice to bead the embattled CIA, was nominated March 11, one day after the first nominee, retired Air Force General Michael Carns, unex-pectedly withdrew his can-

Mr. Carns admitted to errors in helping a Philippine worker obtain a U.S. visa by falsely stating on the application that the STRASBOURG (Agencies) ments from the Netherlands

recommended Wednesday that Turkey be suspended from the hody and gave Ankara two months to improve its human rights record. In a motion, the assembly said the council's executive committee should consider suspending Turkey unless the panel could certify in two

improved its buman rights record, especially with regard to its Kurdisb minority.

Germany said meanwhile

Turkey had taken a step in the right direction by agreeing to pull most of its troops out of northern Iraq,

but should now send bome Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said he was happy Turkey had heeded its allies' calls and withdrawn more than 20,000 troops, the bulk of a force which crossed the border on March 20 to attack

bases of Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas. "Turkey's on the right path but that's not enough," Mr. Kinkel, an outspoken opponent of the action, said in a

statement. "Now the remaining 10,000 soldiers must be withdrawn without delay."

Turkey's relations with its North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies also

and Dutch firms will not be able to participate in Turkey's military tenders," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman told a news hriefing.
The ban was in response to

the Dutch government allow-ing a Kurdish parliament-inexile to be set up in the Hague and would last as long as it tolerated the exiled body, be said. The Dutch government

says its law does not prohibit exiled Kurds from meeting as long as their activities are not linked to terrorism. Mr. Ataman called this "unaccept-

Foreign aid workers and Iraqi Kurds said Turkey's military operation in northern Iraq has backfired failing to wipe out the PKK guerrillas and even boosting their support among locals.
"The whole Turkish opera-

tion was a failure. The troops only looted the Kurdish villages. But the PKK still remain in the area and will get even stronger," Abdul Aziz Tahib, the governor of the Dohuk, told AFP.

His words were echoed by Kurdish villagers and foreign aid workers. Villagers from Derkare,

about 10 kilometres east of Zakho. said about 2,000 PKK rebels were still in the area. "When the Turkish troops

entered, the PKK went further east. When the Turks left, the PKK returned the same day," said Sabiri Arah, an official with the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

No immediate move in Paris talks on PNA aid

PARIS (AFP) — International donors to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) began talks here Wednesday aimed at un-blocking the flow of aid to the region, hut Palestinian sources said prospects for progress were not immediate-

good. Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said an initial bilateral session between Palestinian and U.S. negotiators bad not provided what the Palestinians had boped for. "The signs we got from the

U.S. delegation do not augur well," he told AFP. The meeting was "not up to what we boped."
One Palestinian source said: "We sometimes get the impression that the Amer-

icans are pushing us to beg

for money which was prom-

ised to us, and which is not being given." They were speaking as delegations from the European Union, the United States, Russia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the World Bank gathered in the French capit-

Wednesday and Thursday were to be taken up with bilateral discussions, culminating in a plenary session

al for talks which will end

Friday.

Problems have arisen since the September 1993 signing of the declaration of principles, when donors pledged \$2.2 billion for the Palestinians over five years.

But Palestinians say only \$215 million has been delivered out of a total \$720 million promised for 1994.

But Dr. Shaath said international donors must also begin "implementing the projects they have promised in the self-rule areas" of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. years, the report said

radical left-wing Turkish groups. federal and state governments have politically motivated attacks on travel and banks since Feh. 17, Bavaria's deteriorated further over the Kurdish issue with Ankara announcing its would stop all The arrest of two Kurdisb Labour Party (PKK) supporters man would be in his emnew military purchases from after one attack and the seizure in German cities of PKK propaganda material urging boycotts of Turkish travel agencies firmly established a link to the PKK, it added. the Netherlands. We have decided to stop all new military procure-